MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

U.S.-Israeli Strategic Cooperation -- Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported that Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat said that since both the United States and Israel want the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation, it has not actually been canceled. In a similar vein, Jerusalem radio said that according to Israeli political circles, the Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation agreement has not been canceled because the United States "does not consider it canceled." However, in remarks broadcast by the radio, MK Moshe Arens said it is doubtful if the agreement will be enforced in the future. Asserting that it is now clear to Israel that the agreement does not serve U.S. interests, he added that, this being the case, both countries will be better off without it.

Sinai Withdrawal -- MA'ARIV reported that during the 20 December Cabinet session Prime Minister Menahan Begin said there should be "no doubt" that Israel will complete the evacuation of Sinai as scheduled in April 1982.

Eban Criticism of Begin -- In a commentary published by the Jerusalem POST, MK Abba Eban criticized Prime Minister Begin for inflicing "intellectual humiliation on Israel and the Jewish people with his unrestrained tirade" at the U.S. ambassador on 20 December.

Ministerial Defense Committee -- Jerusalem television reported that Prime Minister Begin established a defense committee comprising himself and 10 Cabinet ministers representing all coalition factions. While the television said Deputy Prime Minister David Levi would be infuriated by his exclusion from the committee, an earlier report by IDF radio listed Levi as a committee member.

Radio on U.S.-Soviet Contacts -- According to Jerusalem radio, U.S. envoy Philip Habib met secretly in Amman with Soviet roving Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko during their recent tours of the region. Citing Arab sources, the radio said the two diplomats discussed a deal whereby the United States would not oppose the establishment of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, in return for which the latter would not prevent an improvement in U.S.-Syrian relations.

Syria

Al-Asad Tour -- SANA reported that during further talks in Riyadh, President Hafiz al-Asad and top Saudi officials discussed the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. According to a Damascus radio commentary, Al-Asad's tour of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states reflects the "dire need for a single Arab viewpoint" on the diplomatic battle over the Golan issue. The radio commended the UN Security Council's rejection of Israel's decision, saying it constitutes a positive basis for an "active Arab move" prior to the forthcoming UN Security Council session that will consider international measures against Israel.

According to Kuwait radio, Al-Asad arrived in Kuwait on 23 December. WAKH reported that Al-Asad will also visit Bahrain and Qatar during his gulf tour; according to WAM, the Syrian leader will subsequently visit the UAE.

Golan Demonstration -- AFP reported that Ba'th Party officials led a large crowd of demonstrators near the cease-fire line in Al-Qunaytirah to protest Israel's decision to "annex" the Golan Heights.

Military Talks With PLO -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir held talks in Damascus with top Syrian military officials to discuss how to confront and coordinate against any possible Israeli attack.

Death of Ba'th Leader -- Citing official sources, AFP reported that Mamduh Haddad, leader of the "avant-garde" section of the Ba'th Party, committee suicide when police arrived at his home in Homs to arrest him on corruption charges. However, AFP noted that other reports said Haddad was murdered.

Lebanon

Jerusalem radio's English service reported an accusation by Christian Militia Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad that Palestinian guerrillas kidnapped seven villagers from the Christian enclave after his forces had detained some guerrillas who were planning an attack. According to a later Jerusalem radio report, Haddad threatened to take measures against the PLO unless it released the seven.

Iran

Security Situation -- Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas assassinated the Majlis deputy and governor of Shahr Kord when the latter were visiting a shrine in Mashhad, Tehran radio reported. During an interview reported by the radio, Islamic Revolution Guards Commander Mohsen Reza'i asserted that 250 high-ranking 'hypocrites' have been arrested over the past month and have provided the authorities with much intelligence information. Citing KEYHAN, AFP reported that 14 monarchists were executed on 21 December after being convicted of participation in an attempted coup in July 1980. Those executed included Reza Hajj Marzban, an associate of former Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar, and Zia' Modarres, the secretary general of the late shah's Pastakhiz Party.

Opposition Group -- AFP reported that the National Democratic Front of Iran, a group of progressive intellectuals formed after the 1979 Iranian revolution, announced it would join the National Resistance Council founded by former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi.

Clashes in Kordestan -- According to the clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio, 500 Iranian troops have been killed or wounded in fierce fighting over the past 15 days with Kurdish Democratic Party forces in the Baneh and Sar Dasht region.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Revolution Guards commander in Gilan-e Gharb announced that 2,000 Iraqis were killed over the past 12 days during an Iranian offensive in ths Siah Kuh region, Tehran radio reported. Iraq also lost 15 tanks, 5 aircraft and 1 helicopter, he said, adding that the Iranian offensive forced the Iraqis to divert troops to the region from As-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. The daily Iranian Joint Staff Communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, said fighting continued in the Gilan-e Gharb region as Iranian units pushed back the Iraqis. It said 325 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the fighting. On the other hand, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique, transmitted by INA, said Iraqi forces moved against the "collapsing" Iranian troops.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KLIBI TO TRY TO RESCHEDULE ARAB SUMMIT

LD211112 Kuwait KUNA in English 1039 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Dec (KUNA) -- The secretary general of the Arab League Chedli Klibi in a press interview here said Monday that he will start at the end of January or the beginning of February contacts with Arab countries for resuming the Arab Fes summit that was postponed last February 25 [date as received].

He informed AL-MEDINA newspaper that after evaluating the situation in the light of these contacts, a decision will be taken to invite the Arab foreign ministers to meet again to decide resumption of the summit.

Klibi added: "We will have hope to exert further efforts in the near future to bring about rapproachement between the stances of Arab countries."

The summit was postponed because of the conflicts between the Arabs over the Saudi peace plan in the Middle East.

INTERIOR MINISTERS TO FORM PERMANENT COUNCIL

GF131500 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Dec (QNA) -- A conference of Arab interior ministers will convene in Riyadh 8 February to discuss the formation of a permanent ministerial council. In their 1-day meeting the Arab ministers will also discuss the council's founding system prior to submission to the Arab League. This was stated by Saudi Interior Ministry Under Secretary Ibrahim al-'Awaji. He added that the system of the Arab interior ministers council will be ready for endorsement following the completion of a study and preparation of its final form.

'ARAFAT GIVES SPEECH AT RED CRESCENT MEETING

JN191938 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1637 GMT 19 Dec 81

["Text" of speech by PLO leader Abu 'Ammar -- Yasir 'Arafat -- "this afternoon" at the closing session of the Red Crescent conference -- place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Chairman of the International Red Cross and Crescent societies, brother guests, my brothers and comrades in the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian revolution, brothers in the Palestinian Red Crescent. On this occasion, numerous memories swarm in the mind, memories of bitterness and suffering. However, at the same time, these memories carry the continued hope of this militant people, this people who are still progressing with confidence on the path of liberation and victory toward Palestine, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jersualem. [applause]

We know why world Zionism is launching against us the vicious war backed by unlimited support by world imperialism led by the United States of America. Brothers in the Palestinian Red Crescent know very well how much we suffer from U.S. napalm and from banned U.S. weapons used by this Israeli clique in the valiant southern region of Lebanon. The south is actually an experimental field for moderan weapons and internationally banned arms. This is what is happening in southern Lebanon.

I am saying this at the very time when three [Israeli] divisions are being massed in southern Lebanon after an agreement was announced -- I am saying this so no one will be deceived by various stands -- with the United States. The annexation decision came following an agreement with the United States. The decision to annex the Golan, this stand of the U.S. administration. [sentence as heard]

I want to remind all the sons of the Arab nation: Hasn't Jerusalem been annexed? Hasn't this annexation passed unnoticed? Haven't settlements been planted all over our occupied land? Haven't crimes been committed from 1948 up to the present because of this unlimited U.S. military, political, informational, diplomatic and economic support? Neither Begin, Sharon nor Shamir would have dared to take such measures. We all know that none of them can do anything without a green light from the ranking U.S. leaders.

Now, three divisions are being massed. The day before yesterday, Sharon said: I am massing three divisions, after the annexation of the Golan, against the Palestinians and Syrians. He knows we are not present on the Golan borders. Therefore, it is known against whom the blow will be dealt: against the Palestinians and Syrians. The three divisions are present in Marj 'Uyun, between Marj 'Uyun and Shab'a Metulla and another division is in El Khalisa [Qiryat Shemona] and spread throughout El Ja'une [Rosh Pinna], Nahariyya and Safad [Zefat]. There are also two brigades in the Golan.

Yesterday, we discussed all these things at the Military Council meeting. We studied and analyzed these things. I tell them one thing: You have already tried. If there is now another military operation, I say to you: Welcome. The mountain will not be moved. [applause]

Regarding the strategic alliance, I say that we now consider any fighting in the steadfast southern Lebanon as not only against the Israeli Army but also against its strategic ally, the U.S. Army. We in the Palestinian revolution know this equation. I am just saying this to some of the Arabs who are still pinning hopes on the United States. I tell them: All secrets are disclosed now. I tell them: Take the blindfold off. We are now facing in this position the belligerency of the 6th Fleet. We are in the range of the artillery fire of the U.S. 6th Fleet. I tell them: Welcome. We have tried [words indistinct]. If the marines want to land with the Israeli Army, welcome. We tell those marines, including those of the bright or the dim stars, that here we have revolutionaries of a new quality, revolutionaries who do not panic or shake. We are the ones who cause fear to others. If others panic, it is us in this region who cause them to feel fear and panic. [applause]

These heroes of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces have conquered the barrier of fear. Here we have a new fighter who was brought up in this Arab land. They must know in case there are plans to land forces from Al-Awza'i [coastal area in Beirut] to Mount Hermon, to Al-Biqa' to other places, I tell them: Welcome. I say this our of complete confidence in this cub [a fedayeen boy] and in this flower [fedayeen girl]. I say this out of complete confidence in this cub who is on Mount Hermon and in this flower who is standing behind him at an antiaircraft gun. Out of complete confidence in these heroes, I tell all of them welcome. [applause]

Our march is difficult. We, brothers, are not dreamers. We know the facts. We know the enemy's power and realize that we will be entering a dark tunnel full of plots and explosions. Ever since we came back from Fes, there have been plots against us, explosions and assassinations. We know this. Yet, who said that we care about all this? When we decided to start this revolution we were aware of the fact that it would not be a picnic or a wedding ceremony. We were aware that it would be a long popular war. [applause]

'ARAFAT CONGRATULATES BREZHNEV ON 75TH BIRTHDAY

NC200756 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Cable from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Soviet President and CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev on his 75th birthday; date unspecified]

[Text] Comrade President Leonid Brezhnev: Greetings of the revolution.

On your 75th birthday, it pleases me to send you -- on behalf of our Palestinian Arab people, on behalf of my brothers, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on my own behalf -- warm congratulations coupled with my best wishes of good health, happiness and long life for you.

This occasion is a great symbol of the sacrifices of whole generations of the sons and daughters of the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union in the struggle for socialist building, social progress, justice and peace, not only in the Soviet Union but also throughout the whole world. These sacrifices are based on the policy of the international solidarity of the peoples of the Soviet Union with all the peoples struggling for their freedom, independence and sovereignty.

Our Palestinian Arab people will never forget your true and firm principled stands which affirm the support of the friendly peoples of the Soviet Union for our people's just struggle to restore their national and inalienable rights, including the right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on the soil of their Palestinian national homeland.

We wish you continuing good health and success in achieving the aspirations of your friendly peoples for progress and prosperity under your wise and sagacious leadership. Please accept my love, esteem and heartfelt congratulations. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

PLO ANNOUNCES FIRST AMBASSADOR IN EUROPE

JN221604 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] It was officially announced in Greece today that Shawqi Armali, the director of the PLO Office of Communications and Information in Greece, will be the first PLO ambassador in Athens and the first Palestinian ambassador assigned in Europe.

The president of the Greek-Arab Friendship Society declared that the Arab world is strongly interested in cooperation on every level with the socialist Government of Greece. He explained that this interest resulted from the official Greek Government's recognition of the PLO.

BRIEFS

PAKISTAN-ISLAMIC BANK AGREEMENT -- An agreement between the Islamic Development Bank and the Pakistani general tire and rubber establishment was signed in Jidda today. The bank will finance the import of equipment and instruments to the Pakistani establishment in the amount of 10 million Islamic dinars, the equivalent of $11.5 million. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Dec 81 GF]

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS SABOTAGE PLOT IN BAHRAIN

GF222011 Doha QNA in Arabic 1908 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Dec (QNA) -- Ibrahim Humud as-Subhi, Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] assistant secretary general for political affairs, left Riyadh for Manama today on a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

In a predeparture statement to the QNA correspondent in Riyadh, As-Subhi said his visit to Bahrain is in line with the GCC policy of strengthening relations among GCC countries in all spheres. He said a political move was necessary to learn firsthand how far investigations in the sabotage plot in Bahrain have gone and the conclusions of the Bahraini security authorities, and also to affirm to Bahraini officials that the GCC countries stand by Bahrain and that Bahrain's security is indivisible from Gulf security. As-Subhi added he will also discuss with Bahraini officials what assistance the GCC countries should give Bahrain if it so desires.

The GCC assistant secretary general said the sabotage plot in Bahrain placed on the GCC the responsibility of taking the initiative and responding to events, particularly since what happened in Bahrain could happen in other GCC member countries. He said the plot should be contained before it goes too far. As-Subhi said that during his visit he will acquaint himself with the views of Bahraini officials on the GCC countries' domestic defense and will submit these views at the next meeting of GCC interior ministers scheduled to be held in Riyadh on 9 and 10 February 1982.

BAHRAIN

INTERIOR MINISTER URGES FORMATION OF GULF RDF

GF201335 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Dec (WAKH) -- Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah has called on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] to form a rapid deployment force [RDF] to intervene in any of the GCC member countries.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' published today, the Bahraini interior minister said: "Following the uncovering of a sabotage network in Bahrain that was being financed by Iran, it is time to set up a rapid deployment force in the Gulf that would be capable of quickly providing assistance when needed." He stressed that there is no justification for not setting up this force, because its formation would be part of the present cooperation among the GCC countries. He declared: "Funds are available to form such a force."

The Bahraini minister explained the objective behind forming such a force is defensive -- to protect the region's wealth and safeguard its peace and security.

The Bahraini interior minister asserted that the plot uncovered in Bahrain had been engineered in Iran and was aimed at creating an atmosphere of fear in Bahrain in particular and the Gulf in general. He added: "There is sufficient evidence to convince us that the plot had been engineered in Iran."

The Bahraini minister said the group that was uncovered intended to spread anarchy in Bahrain and create disturbances and blow up police stations in some Gulf countries. He said some members of the group went to Saudi Arabia and are now being pursued.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah added: "Bahraini security forces have completed their arrests and are still interrogating the plotters with the assistance of officers from various Gulf countries." He said the authorities are still looking for more arms caches, although very large quantities of arms have already been seized.

The Bahraini interior minister said the plot was first uncovered at Dubayy Airport, when airport police arrested six plotters whose passports had false visa stamps.

OMANI INTERIOR MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

Arrives 22 Dec

GF221020 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH) -- Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib today arrived in Manama on a visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the Omani minister will deliver a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman to his highness Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah of Bahrain.

He was met by Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and senior Interior Ministry officials.

Meets With Amir

GF221025 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH) -- Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received today a written message from Omani Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id.

The message was delivered by Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Su'ud Harib during a meeting with his highness the amir today.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and Omani Ambassador to Bahrain Muhammad Hasan 'Ali.

GULF NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message delivered by the Omani minister deals with bilateral relations and the current situation in the Arab Gulf region. The message also deals with the latest developments in Bahrain, which threatened to destabilize Bahrain's security.

Following the meeting, the Omani minister stressed that the sultanate of Oman stands by Bahrain in repelling all dangerous conspiracies and attempts, which are not only aimed at Bahrain but at the area countries as well. He added that he regards the security of the area as an inseparable issue.

Participates in Security Talks

GF221029 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH) -- A meeting was held today between Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Su'ud Ibn Harib, who is currently visiting Manama.

The meeting was attended by Brig Gen Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, the deputy chief of Bahraini security forces, together with senior police and security officers and the accompanying Omani delegation.

During the meeting, security issues between the two countries were discussed. The latest results of the investigation on the arrested sabotage group were also reviewed.

Following the meeting, the Omani interior minister stated: "The Bahraini interior minister reviewed with me the investigations carried out by Bahraini security forces of the sabotage group which was uncovered recently." He added: "We thank God the security forces succeeded in uncovering this criminal act and foiling it before it took place." He pointed out that Bahrain is part of this area and is a member in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. He noted that if the goal were to harm Bahrain's security, then all area countries would be harmed.

He called on the GCC countries to discuss seriously the recent situation in order to achieve whatever is in the best interest of the security of this area, particularly since it has become clear to officials in Bahrain that the side plotting such subversive acts is Iran. He urged the GCC countries to adopt stringent measures because "we cannot accept infringments on our security or shocks to our stability in the area."

The Omani interior minister commented on the Bahraini interior minister's proposal to form a Gulf force to preserve security and stability in the area. He said this issue is subject to discussion on the GCC level and open for debate so that a unified position can be reached.

Concluding his statement, the Omani minister expressed hope that stability, security and prosperity will prevail in this secure country under its leadership and that positive steps will be achieved toward further cooperation among the council countries.

KUWAIT

PREMIER DEPARTS ON NORTH AFRICAN VISIT

LD191444 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Dec (KUNA) -- H.H. the crown prince and prime ministers, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, left this morning for Libya at the outset of a tour of five North African Arab states.

H.H. said upon departure that his visits to Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco are made at official invitations from the governments of these states.

"These visits are an interpretation of our policy which aims at strengthening, fostering and consolidating relations of Kuwait with the sisterly Arab states," he said.

"It is natural that during my stay in these Arab capitals I will confer with the leaders and senior officials there on the difficulties facing the Arab nation and will explore the steps that have to be taken to restore Arab solidarity and promote unified Arab action against the challenges confronting the Arab nation," he said.

Shaykh Sa'd is accompanied by a high level delegation including the ministers of state, finance and planning and commerce and industry and the undersecretaries and senior officials of the senior ministries.

An information and press delegation including the chairman and general manager of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY and chief editors of the daily newspapers is also accompanying the crown prince.

The crown prince and prime minister was seen off at the airport by a group of senior government officials including the Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Speaker of the National Assembly Mohammed Yusuf al-Adsani and senior government officials.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ARRIVES 23 DEC

LD231016 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Summary] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his delegation arrived in Kuwait at 1245 today. The amir and others were at the airport to welcome him. This evening the amir will give a dinner in honor of his guest.

AL-WATAN URGES PRESSURE ON UNITED STATES

PM221721 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Dec 81 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "The Required Answer"]

[Text] Many people have been surprised by the Israeli decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights, but the decision is not really surprising. The time was more than ripe for the annexation and for making it public while evoking the least possible Arab reaction, which at best did not exceed condemnation. Egypt was the first Arab country to denounce the Israeli decision. Syria described it as "a confirmation of the aggressive expansionist nature" of the Zionists. The surprise was perhaps more in the timing of the decision than in the decision itself, which Israel had postponed throughout the past years while affirming that the Golan Heights would never be returned to Syria even if a peace treaty similar to As-Sadat's were signed.

Begin cited the Torah in the Knesset yesterday when he said the Golan Heights were Israeli territory. He went to the point of criticizing the "historical partitions" noting that it would have been better if the Syrian heights had been annexed after World War II.

A number of reasons and circumstances prompted Israel to take this step which has been condemned even by the United States:

1. It is an attempt to bring Syria to its knees on the Israeli and Lebanese fronts, or drag it into a war in which Syria would be alone, especially after its hardline position on the question of the antiaircraft missiles installed by the Syrians in the Lebanese Al-Biaqa' valley last April to protect their forces (the deterrent forces) from Israeli raids.

2. The U.S.-Israeli strategic accord signed on 30 November was the shield behind which Israel took cover when it announced the annexation of the Golan Heights. Then there were the U.S. threats against Syria.

3. The Jewish settlers in the occupied heights had pressed for the annexation. Yesterday they were dancing in the streets.

If we look at the case of just one individual Palestinian citizen, Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, whose extradition from the United States to Israel went ahead despite all Arab pressures, we can conclude that U.S. pressure on Israel will remain within the context of "consultation."

We can also say in advance that the official Arab moves will not go beyond complaining to the United Nations whose shelves are sagging under the weight of tons of Arab documents. What is needed is much more than that. The political significance of the "legalized annexation" of the Golan, which is the second annexation since east Jerusalem (the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has not been announced yet), is extremely serious and it calls for a firm Arab reply to match the level of Israeli firmness. This can be achieved only through "real" pressure on the United States in the oil domain as well as politically and economically, because the United States is the strategic ally of Israel, and through military coordination. This is kind of daydreaming on our part because military coordination is precluded by the existence of Arab blocs. These blocs have turned their backs on the people of the occupied territory and let them "rise" alone with no response from anyone.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS ON SOVIET THREAT IN REGION

EA211544 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] In an interview with the Beirut weekly MONDAY MORNING, Sultan Qabus has warned that the issues facing the Arab nation will remain unsolved unless Soviet interference in the internal affairs of the region is stopped. His majesty said although Oman wants to be left alone and will not permit the establishment of foreign military bases on its territory, it cannot ignore the dangers posed by the Soviet puppet regime in Aden.

The Sultan went on to say that Oman supports efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East issue. He said: We want everyone to study carefully an initiative put forward in this direction.

QABUS RECEIVES PAKISTANI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GF201935 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Muscat, 20 Dec (QNA) -- His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman has received a message from Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq concerning bilateral relations and a number of issues of common interest.

Mustafa K. Gokal, shipping adviser to the Pakistani president, delivered the message to Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, during their meeting today.

The Pakistani adviser arrived in Muscat yesterday for a 3-day visit.

INTERIOR MINISTER RETURNS FROM BAHRAIN VISIT

GF230618 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Muscat, 22 Dec (WAKH) -- Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib returned to Muscat from Manama today after a 1-day visit to Bahrain. During the visit, he conveyed a message from Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. He also held talks with his Bahraini counterpart, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, on the latest developments in the sabotage plot uncovered in Bahrain.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SRI LANKA

EA180720 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Summary] In a statement issued in Muscat and Colombo, Oman and Sri Lanka agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

QATAR

AMIR CABLES HUSAYN ON IRAQI EMBASSY BUILDING

GF171630 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has sent a condolences cable to his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the martyrdom of the victims who were killed in the recent painful incident at the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. The amir expressed his strong denunciation of such savage actions.

MAURITANIAN, GABONESE ENVOYS ARRIVE 19 DEC

GF191111 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 19 Dec (WAKH) -- Mauritanian Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Ahmed Ould Mennaya arrived in Doha today from Abu Dhabi on a visit to Qatar as part of his tour of a number of area countries. The Gabonese president's envoy, (Muwaba Byata), arrived on board the same plane on a similar visit to Qatar.

Upon arrival, the Mauritanian minister stated that he will convey a written message from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala to the amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. He added that he will hold talks with Qatari officials dealing with developing bilateral relations.

The Gabonese envoy stated that he carries a message from the Gabonese president to the amir of Qatar. He will also hold talks on means on developing and bolstering relations between Qatar and Gabon.

Amir, Mauritanian Envoy Meet

GF191652 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] His highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, has received a written message from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. It was delivered by Ahmed Ould Mennaya, Mauritanian foreign affairs and cooperation minister, during his meeting with the amir in his office at Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1000 today.

The meeting was attended by Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and Sidna Aly Ould Sgiri, Mauritanian ambassador in Doha.

QNA has learned that the message deals with bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Mauritanian Envoy's Activities

GF201940 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, finance and oil minister, received in his office today Ahmed Ould Mennaya, Mauritanian foreign affairs and cooperation minister, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Sidna Aly Ould Sgiri, Mauritanian ambassador in Doha.

The Mauritanian ambassador said the two sides discussed their good bilateral relations during the meeting. He expressed his country's readiness to consolidate these relations in all fields, particularly the economic field. In a statement to QNA, he described his meeting with the finance and oil minister as good and constructive.

'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, labor and social affairs minister, also met with the Mauritanian minister. The Mauritanian ambassador attended the meeting. The two sides discussed the means of expanding and consolidating relations between the two fraternal countries.

Gabonese Envoy Departs

GF210758 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH) -- Mamadou (Muwaba Byata), the Gabonese president's envoy, left for Baghdad this morning after a 3-day visit to Qatar.

During his visit, the Gabonese envoy delivered a message to Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani from Gabonese President Omar Bongo dealing with the means of bolstering Afro-Arab cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations in general.

Mauritanian Envoy Departs

GF210812 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH) -- Mauritanian Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Ahmed Ould Mennaya left for Paris this morning after a visit to Qatar during which he delivered a message to Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala dealing with bilateral relations.

During his 3-day visit, the Mauritanian minister also held talks with a number of Qatari officials on bolstering bilateral relations, especially in the economic field.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT TO UNITED STATES POSTPONED

LD231122 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Dec (SPA) -- It has been decided to postpone the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, to the United States which was scheduled to begin on 9 January.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd and president Ronald Reagan agreed on the postponement with a new date to be fixed later because of the situation in the Middle East and the world [words indistinct].

TALKS WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT BEGIN IN RIYADH

LD221016 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0940 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Dec (SPA) -- Saudi-Syrian talks began at noon today in the guest palace. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, who is currently visiting the kingdom, are leading the two delegations. Participating on the Saudi side were His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, His Royal Highness Amir Salaman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region, Shaykh 'Abdallah an-Nu'ayn, mayor of Riyadh, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Muhsin az-Zayd, Saudi ambassador to Syria. The Syrian side was represented by the delegation accompanying his excellency the Syrian president, foremost among them being 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs.

The talks deal with the development of Saudi-Syrian relations and developments in the Arab region.

King Hosts Luncheon

LD221340 Riyadh SPA in English 1232 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Dec (SPA) -- His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today gave a luncheon party in honour of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, currently visiting Saudi Arabia.

The party was attended by Crown Prince Fahd, the deputy premier, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, Prince 'Aboullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, princes, ministers and high-ranking officials.

Further Talks

JN221853 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Dec 81

[SANA correspondent dispatch]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 22 Dec (SANA) -- Syrian-Saudi talks resumed at 1730 this evening, Damascus time, with a meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The talks were attended by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

The two meetings at noon today and this evening were held in a brotherly atmosphere.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Arab region and the latest development in the Arab-Israeli dispute, particularly in the wake of the aggressive action of expansion the Zionist enemy has carried out by adopting the decision to apply Israeli law on the Arab Golan Heights.

The President explained the threats that would result from this Zionist act of aggression, outlining the required Arab stand to confront such a decision. He also spoke about Israel's objectives and its schemes of expansion in the Arab homeland in general which targets the entire Arab nation.

The president reiterated Syria's determination to confront this aggression and its interest in working for Arab solidarity, which will consolidate the Arab nation's steadfastness and its confrontation of the enemy's schemes.

Syrian Delegation Departs

LD230952 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Dec (SPA) -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his accompanying delegation left Riyadh before noon today at the end of a 1-day visit to the Kingdom, within a tour of Gulf Arab states.

His Royal Highness the deputy prime minister, Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, His Royal Highness 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Aziz, and the governor of Riyadh, His Royal Highness Salman 'Abd al-'Aziz, and a number of senior officials were at the airport to see the guest off.

Fahd Issues Press Statement

LD231256 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed satisfaction with the visit of his excellency the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, to the kingdom and the Gulf states. He also expressed the hope that this visit will be only the first of further visits exchanged among leaders of the Arab nation in order to ensure excellent results for the Fes summit, should it resume its work.

In a press statement made on the departure of the Syrian president, His Royal Highness Prince Fahd said the visit was important and would have a significant impact. He added that it is not surprising for His Excellency President al-Asad to visit his brother King Khalid, especially in the circumstances currently facing the Arab nation and in the wake of the announcement by Israel of its annexation of the Golan. His royal highness pointed out that contacts are being intensified in light of this decision.

They will naturally continue, since the Arab nation, in particular the kingdom and Syria, will not allow Israel to take over any part of the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan. His royal highness added this question was discussed and studied in full. Other Arab affairs were also discussed, both with regard to the problems of the usurped Arab homeland and to those of the Arab nation as a whole. The main aim of the Saudi-Syrian talks, he added, was to restore Arab solidarity and to overcome difficulties, in view of the fact that the present circumstances require that the Arab nation and its leaders rise to a level of responsibility. His royal highness said there is no doubt that everybody has demonstrated this level of responsibility. He pointed out that so far no new date has been fixed for the resumption of the Arab summit, though a resumption is probable in these critical circumstances.

Replying to a question about the kingdom's stance and the efforts it is exerting with the countries with which it has good relations regarding the new situation brought about by the annexation of the Golan, his royal highness stressed that Saudi efforts in this respect are coupled with those of other Arab countries. He said the kingdom will be discussing matters with all the countries connected with the Security Council in particular and the United Nations in general to explain that efforts in this respect will be made not only by the kingdom, but by all Arab countries.

Regarding Israel's decision to annex the occupied Golan, his royal highness pointed out that Israel's ambitions are much broader than this; it dreams of expanding from the Euphrates to the Nile. Its ambitions are not confined to the Golan or Jerusalem. He stressed that the Arab nation will not hesitate in any circumstances to adopt a firm stand and will restore its occupied territories by any method. In this respect, his royal highness explained that if it were possible to attain this aim through peaceful means which would restore to the Arabs all their rights. This would, of course, be better; otherwise the Arab nation and its leaders are called upon to think about the most appropriate methods to ensure the restoration of all their legitimate rights.

His royal highness said that the Saudi-Syrian talks did not touch on the Saudi peace plan, which has become an Arab plan on the agenda of the Arab summit. He said that the kingdom's attitude toward the plan is just like that of any other Arab country. He added that the Arab leaders will no doubt decide when they meet again on the most suitable and most appropriate method, regardless of whether the proposal is a Saudi or non-Saudi one. He said the kingdom will support any Arab effort to achieve Arab aims leading to the realization of the desired results.

Regarding his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan during his upcoming visit to the United States, his royal highness said Saudi-American relations, as is known, are good and that our problems on the international level are clear and known. It is not difficult to present these problems, explain them and define the Arab attitude towards them. He added that his talks with President Reagan will cover many issues of common concern, first and foremost the Middle East issue.

RIYADH COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S.-ISRAELI RIFT

LD222380 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] Observers are following with great caution the developments in the situation between the United States and Israel following the Israeli attempt to put on a show of force independent of the U.S. administration.

It is difficult to evaluate the developments in the situation between the United States and Israel in the light of the tension which has marred the relations between the two countries as a result of the U.S. administration's strong criticism of Israel's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

It is evident from the development of events that it is too early to make a true evaluation of the results of the American reaction to the Israeli prime minister's abrogation of the strategic cooperation between Israel and Washington [words indistinct].

Israel's relations with the United States are of a special nature. Hence, under no circumstances would it be possible to hastily judge development regarding them, irrespective of the Israeli prime minister's attempt to flex his muscles and crack the whip in the face of his master. For, after all, the United States was and continues to be the principal prop of the Israeli existence. The Israeli leaders' attempt at mutiny cannot make the world in general and the Arab world in particular lose sight of the great loss which Israel's existence will suffer if the United States were to take seriously the issues Israel is now raising.

In any case, these are all matters which primarily concern Washington and Tel Aviv. However, in view of their direct connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the effectiveness of the American position toward the conflict, it would be impossible to separate the conflict and the American role of finding a just, durable solution for it from the demands Israel persistently makes on the United States.

Realizing that America's satisfaction with it is the principal guarantee for its existence, the Israelis went on making unlimited demands on the United States. But American generosity, undoubtedly, has its limit. As the U.S. secretary of state has said, Israel's relations with the United States does not mean the Israelis have carte blanche. This statement not only reflects America's loss of patience, but also gives the impression that the Israeli blackmail has become clear even to the ordinary American citizen who has begun to realize that his national interests are being threatened by this acquiesence to the Israeli [word indistinct] actions.

This explains the panic that reigns over Israel now [words indistinct].

UAE

PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE RETURNS FROM SYRIA

GF221749 Dubayy AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Dec 81 p 2

[Text] Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the UAE president's representative, has returned from his 1-day visit to Syria during which he delivered a message from UAE president Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan to his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asadon on bilateral relations and current Arab developments.

During his visit to Syria the UAE president's representative met with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They discussed bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East.

PDRY

ADEN: OMAN CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF U.S. BASES

EA210408 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Oman's ruler, the agent Qabus, confirmed the presence of U.S. military bases in his country and that he has fallen into the lap of U.S. imperialism. In an interview with the Lebanese MONDAY MORNING he claimed the U.S. military presence and facilities granted to Washington demonstrate that his reactionary regime has friends whose assistance could be sought if the need arose.

Agent Qabus claimed that the treacherous Camp David accords signed by Egypt, the Zionists and the Americans opened the door for what he called peace in the region.

It will be remembered that Qabus earlier said there were no U.S. military bases in Oman. It will also be remembered that the aggressive Pentagon forces of the United States staged joint military exercises with the agent regime this month along the beaches near the PDRY borders with the aim of creating provocations and posing threats to security and stability in the region.

ADEN SCORES OMAN SULTAN'S REMARKS ON USSR THREAT

EA212104 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Comment by Jafar Aydarus]

[Text] Experience confirms that whenever Qabus' regime and other reactionary puppet regimes are faced with heightened class struggle, the internal crisis worsens and assumes a more serious dimension. Every time such regimes are saddled with new tasks as a result of their subservience to imperialism, they heighten their hostile campaigns against the USSR.

This would be the deduction of any person who had read Qabus' interview published by a Lebanese paper. Qabus regards his regimen's preoccupation to be what he called the communist threat. He also regards resistance to this so-called threat as a prerequisite for solving the Palestine issue and peace in the Middle East.

Of course, these are not new stands as far as Qabus is concerned. They, however, point most definitely to the political, economic and social crisis through which the Muscat regime is going. They also point to the course of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught against the region and the nature of the tasks laid on the puppet regimes.

Muscat's reliance on external borrowing has increased despite it being one of the Gulf oil-producing countries. It is now completely dependent on importing all its requirements, above all foodstuffs, although Oman is the only country in the Gulf region that enjoys unlimited agricultural potential and has important but unexploited fishing resources, with shores both on the Arabian Sea and the Arabian Gulf. This must be attributed to the puppet Muscat regime's reactionary character that has opened the door wide to imperialist and foreign monopolies which dominate the Omani people's economy and resources.

Moreover, there are many heavy tasks laid on the Muscat regime by the imperialists which sap Omani resources. Oman's miliary expenditure is one of the highest in the world when its income and population are taken into consideration. Anger and opposition to the Muscat regime are no longer confined to the peasants, fishermen, tribesmen, employees and workers, but now include all the rest of the Omani people including traders, professionals and students.

The Muscat regime now tops the list of reactionary, fascist regimes since it lacks any social foundation on which to stand. It relies on the military and the police force, which are essentially composed of foreign mercenaries. In the final analysis the regime relies on the protection of the imperialist forces. Naturally, Qabus wants to divert attention from this reality and holds the USSR responsible for it.

At the same time the regime is showing more readiness to serve the imperialist forces. This readiness is not simply desired by this puppet regime, but is essential for its survival.

In this light we see that the Muscat regime's hostility towards the USSR has been born of the internal political, economic and social crisis the regime faces, as well as the nature of the tasks imposed by the imperialist-zionist-reactionary onslaught on the puppet Muscat regime.

LEADERS ATTEND RALLY AFTER MILITARY MANEUVERS

EA180002 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] The military maneuvers Radfan-81 were concluded at noon today after completing the final stage which began Tuesday. The final stage of the military maneuvers, which took place in the specified area in the (?republic), was witnessed by brothers Brig 'Ali Nasir Antar, member of the YSP Political Bureau, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of local government; Salih Munassar as-Siyayli, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the [word indistinct] committee; 'Ali Shayi Hadi, (?candidate) member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Party Control Committee; Brig Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Central Committee and defense minister; and a number of brother members of the Central Committee and senior commanders of the armed land, naval and air forces.

The maneuvers ended with a rally at which Brig Salih Muslih Qasim made a speech expressing high appreciation for the combat acts of the armed forces. He also praised the stand and support being offered by the socialist camp, headed by the USSR, to the just causes for which our Yemeni people and our Arab peoples are struggling.

Brother Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, member of the Central Committee, deputy defense minister and director of the political department at the Defense Ministry, then read a message from the participants in the maneuvers to the YSP Central Committee.

In the message they stressed that the military maneuvers, which ended in complete success, proved the high quality of the weapons and military equipment and the ability of the individuals to use (?them) [words indistinct]. They also stressed the conscious understanding by the combatants of the meaning of the political line of the YSP and its practical decisions.

YAR

AUTO ACCIDENT KILLS PRESIDENT SALIH'S WIFE

JN221227 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The wife of Brother Leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, died yesterday at the age of 30 when the car carrying her overturned as a result of a blowout of one of the car's front tires, causing the driver to lose control. The accident occurred in the Al-Hayf area of Al-Hudaydah Province as the president's wife was traveling to the city of Ta'izz.

While mourning the departed and carrying this painful news, the YAR radio beseeches God to have mercy on her, provide paradise as her abode and grant patience and solace to the president and his family as well as to the children, family and relatives of the departed.

The departed joined with the president in shouldering the hardships of practical life with patience, perseverance and bravery, devoting herself to raising her five children and looking after them and after her home. She was an example for the Yemeni women and mother, who is aware of her life's responsibility.

The tragic accident also led to the death of Fatimah 'Abd al-Hamid, a tutoress from Egypt. Three others were injured. They are the driver, and two companions, one of whom was breast-fed by the mother of the brother leader president baziyy [kinship term used in YAR]

At 1000 today, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the vice presidents, the prime minister, the deputy chairman of higher judiciary, the deputy prime ministers and the members of the Consultative Council of Ministers and the constituent People's Assembly, in addition to several civilian and military officials, YAR dignitaries and a gathering of people in the area attended the funeral of the departed, accompanying her to her final abode in the Bayt al-Ahmar area in Sanhan.

ISMA'IL STATES SECURITY SITUATION UNDER CONTROL

NC221537 Cairo MENA in English 1450 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) -- Nabawi Isma'il, deputy premier and interior minister, confirmed today that Egypt's security situation is under full control, and that all the terroristic plots aimed at turning Egypt into another Lebanon or Iran were foiled.

Addressing the People's Assembly session which convened to resume discussing the statement of the committee for drawing up a reply to the president's and government statement, Isma'il also underlined that the security organs were fully aware vis-a-vis all attempts against Egypt's security (?and) added that most of the terrorists had been arrested and that all facts and details of the recent incidents would be disclosed after the investigations come to an end.

He pointed out, however, that the new fugitive terrorists, none of whom are (?members) of the terrorists organization, are being chased.

EX-ASSEMBLY MEMBER 'UTHMAN SENTENCED TO 1 YEAR

NC211836 Cairo MENA in English 1810 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA) -- The president of the Court of Ethics, Dr Rif'at Khafajah, said today that millionaire Rashad 'Uthman was sentenced to one year internment in application of law against persons who are risks to the country's economic and political life.

'Uthman is standing trial on charges of amassing an estimated 80 million Egyptian pounds (about same dollars) through drug trafficking and other illict operations.

[Words indistinct] member of the People's Assembly for Alexandria's port district, the assembly had stripped him of his parliamentary immunity to sanction his trial.

Mubarak Will Not Intervene

NC221335 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) -- To a question on the topic of the hour in Egypt, the case of Rashad 'Uthman, which involves well-known persons who will be investigated, President Husni Mubarak said that the matter is being deliberated by the courts and that he will not interfere.

PAPERS ON U.S.-ISRAELI TIES, GOLAN LAW

NC222349 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) -- In their Wednesday editions, the Cairo dailies continue their denunciation of the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The whole world condemned this decision, because it violates international laws and charters. The dailies also deal with the U.S. stand which was adopted following the Israeli decision. They describe this stand as insufficient and say it has encouraged Israel to abrogate the strategic cooperation agreement between it and the United States.

Under the caption, "Against the Spirit of Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Some might be surprised that the maker of this decision [the Golan annexation] is one of those who participated in the peace process. However, the surprise will disappear when looking at the series of obstacles which the forces hostile to peace in Israel have placed to prevent peace from reaching its goal.

The series of obstacles the paper refers to began with the announcement on the establishment of new settlements, the hint at an autonomy plan devoid of its concept, the provocation of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territory and the decision to annex the Golan.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH demands that the world not be content with mere condemnation but that it follow this with measures which will make the antipeace forces in Israel understand that disobeying the law does not benefit them.

AL-AHRAM deals with the U.S. answer to the Israeli decision to annex the Golan. It says: This answer has been welcomed by Arab circles and the region in general. However, some consider it insufficient and prove this by Israel's abrogation of the [strategic cooperation] agreement.

The paper says it was more feasible for such a step to be made by the United States itself which has only suspended the agreement. But for this step to be made by Israel, which is protected by the agreement, means Israel does not give much credit to the agreement.

In conclusion, the paper wonders what type of penalties the United States would have inflicted had the annexation aggression taken place before the conclusion of the agreement.

LIBERAL PARTY REACTS TO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

PM211139 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Dec 81 pp 6, 7

[Liberal Party "reply to government policy statement": "A Call for Program for Public Dialogue in Media Between Government and Opposition Parties"]

[Excerpt] Foreign Policy

The Liberal Party has supported the Egyptian peace initiative of the departed leader Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and the two Camp David agreements, including the peace treaty with Israel, out of the conviction that peace can be achieved only through direct negotiations with the other side to promote the best solutions and to establish peace on Arab land. Such peace is based on justice and provides for withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied after the 1967 aggression, and for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, with an interim period of autonomy after which a referendum will be held in the West Bank and Gaza giving the Palestinian people the final say regarding their fate and future.

With profound interest and a positive approach the party has followed the implementation of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel as an example to all the Arabs in the establishment of just and lasting peace in the region.

The treaty has borne fruit and the withdrawal from Sinai has proceeded in accordance with the schedule agreed between the two sides.

The Liberal Party expects the final withdrawal from Sinai to be completed on schedule and it expects the obstacles hindering the autonomy negotiations to be surmounted. It approves of the steps taken to normalize relations between Egypt and Israel as two neighboring states committed to live in peace and neighborliness.

In this respect the party, while appreciating the role played by the United States in its capacity as a full partner in the peace agreement, believes that it is vital that the United States intensify its efforts together with the Soviet Union, the second superpower, so that peace may be established as soon as possible. The United States must not ignore the role of the Soviet Union -- in its capacity as the second superpower in the world -- in the achievement of peace in the region. The United States should take into consideration the Soviet Union's own strategy in the Middle East, as well as in the rest of the world. The party believes that despite the great importance of the U.S. role in the establishment of peace, it is still difficult to promote a just and lasting peace solely with U.S. efforts. In the establishment of peace in the region, the role of the Soviet Union cannot be ignored. The withdrawal of Syria from Lebanese territory and the deployment of UN emergency forces there would be an important factor that would give freedom of action and freedom of decision to the PLO forces in Lebanon and also to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is tantamount to direct pressure on the PLO and Jordan to prevent them from joining the peace agreements.

The party appreciates the European role and the efforts exerted by the EC to enhance peace, such as the Venice declaration and the willingness of some West European states to contribute to the Sinai multinational peacekeeping force. Although these are positive factors contributing to the establishment of peace, the Liberal Party believes that the EC states can play a more effective and positive part in the region.

The party, while condemning the economic aid received by Egypt from the United States and the EC states, still believes that the volume of this aid must be increased to compensate Egypt for the billions of pounds it has spent over the past 30 years in defense of the Palestinian people, as well as for the facilities it has provided and is providing for the protection of the Middle East from any foreign aggression.

All this makes it incumbent upon the United States and the EC to reconsider the volume of their aid to Egypt and to double it in order to enable Egypt to rebuild its infrastructure and partially solve the acute housing problem and maintain, vitalize and rebuild Egyptian industry in general. The aid should be in the form of complete projects fully financed by the donor states. Egypt should be given long-term minimum-interest loans, especially in relation to infrastructure and housing projects.

The party urges the government to continue its negotiations with the United States and Western Europe on increasing their contribution to the economic and social development plans, particularly because of Egypt's prominent role and great importance in the establishment of peace and its human and financial sacrifices for this global and humane objective.

On the question of Egypt's Arab identity, the party supports the government's assertion that Egypt is an integral part of the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also underlines Egypt's membership and leading role as a founder member of the Nonaligned Movement. It calls on the government to initiate official and popular dialogue with the Arab states to bring views closer together. Furthermore, Egypt should encourage every Arab initiative of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd.

The party, like the government, greets the fraternal people of Sudan as an integral element in the Nile Valley. It also hails the hero, President Ja'far Numayri, for all his blessed moves to strengthen ties between the fraternal peoples of Egypt and Sudan.

Domestic Policy

On the issue of democracy the Liberal Party, which has raised the banner of political liberties and stressed the importance of freedom of opinion, ideology and creed as well as the right of assembly, supports every constructive step taken by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to complete the socialist democratic process initiated by the late leader Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat when he declared the great corrective revolution 15 May 1971. That revolution opened wide the door to democracy, which gave birth to political parties representing all ideological trends in Egypt within the framework of national unity, social peace and socialist democracy.

The party, while welcoming President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's move to meet with the leaders of opposition political parties and his announcement that he will always consult them on major domestic and foreign political issues, calls on the government to prepare a program for continuous dialogue between itself and the opposition parties on all domestic and foreign political affairs and to have the proceedings of this dialogue published in the various media to enable the public to see to what extent the dialogue helps in solving problems. This will deepen the people's sense of democracy and enhance the people's contribution to the solution of their problems through the expression of their views. This demands the redistribution of the assets of the socialist union among the various parties on a clear and open basis. The necessary centers should also be provided to enable the parties to reach the various grassroots elements and fill the political vacuum from which some youth sectors have suffered. This would nip in the bud extremist movements which resort to terrorism and violence to impose their views. It would also enable the parties to issue daily papers expressing their views on political affairs and mass issues at home and abroad. This would provide the main prerequisites for party life in Egypt and would produce results.

The party condemns all forms of violence and terrorism and supports all the government's preventive measures against terrorist elements who use religion as a cover. It urges the continuation of these preventive measures so that all terrorists can be brought to justice under the law and the Constitution. The party believes that preventive measures and trials as such are not enough to wipe out terrorism and extremism. The real solution lies in deepening the people's sense of democracy, especially young people's.

The party agrees with the government that the domestic front is sound, cohesive and patriotic. However, there is a need for continuous dialogue to enable the truth to emerge and to make possible full participation in the making of comprehensive national awakening in the country.

The party stresses the need for an integrated program for Egypt's youth aimed at solving their social, financial and political problems and making it possible for them to contribute positively to the democratic process and help increase production and promote prosperity. The party has its own complete program in this respect and it will present it through its representatives in the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. Its aim is to give a clear vision to young people in the field, factory, school and university.

OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY LEADER INTERVIEWED

PM171203 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 Dec 81 p 28-30

[Huda al-Husayni interview with Egyptian Socialist Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Some Egyptians wish that President Mubarak was a bit tougher in his rule, while you advocate democracy. Does Egypt now need military rule or democracy?

Ibrahim Shukri: I believe that democracy is the safer and more lasting path. Whatever difficulties a ruler committed to democracy may find, it is in the end the soundest way. A ruler must listen to what the opposition has to say even if what it says is hard on him, for this is much better than gagging people and suppressing or suspending writers; he thinks that by so doing he is ridding himself of the opposition, only to hear the sound of bullets later.

AL-HAWADITH: As happened to President as-Sadat?

Ibrahim Shukri: I say that the recent decisions, particularly the 5 September decisions, were in certain respects a means of fighting opposing views and an attempt to gag the opposition. The license of the newspaper ASH-SHA'B was withdrawn and a large number of the paper's writers were arrested. Many opposition leaders were arrested, as well as a number of university professors and journalists. All this cannot be regarded as precautions against danger as provided for in the Constitution.

I cannot imagine that press articles or dialogue could constitute the danger that the provision talks about. If these dangers existed, the security organs should have exposed and revealed them more clearly. So I believe that the reports that were submitted to him [As-Sadat] and the information on which he based his action did not point to the aspects of the dangers that needed to be focused on for the dangers to be contained or averted.

But it appeared to us, as As-Sadat himself said, that he wanted to administer an electric shock to all circles that could have been opposing or seemed to him to be opposing the regime. Whereas in fact, political parties, in what they either published in the papers or said in their dialogues, did not go beyond the limits of the true democratic method. Although some of the articles could be called strong criticism, they represented the truth. What we are now hearing about social ills that need to be remedied only confirms that the criticism was justified, otherwise we would not now be hearing about things that need to be changed and about principles that we must not deviate from.

AL-HAWADITH: Why is it that the ruler in Egypt, after a few years in office, hates criticism. Do you expect President Mubarak, who is now calling for dialogue with the opposition, to become like the previous Egyptian rulers after a few years?

Ibrahim Shukri: I believe that something to which a ruler should pay particular attention is checking -- checking out what is going on around him and what he is hearing. This is because after a while some people feel that it is in their interest to express a personal view or to give advice. Many of the views that could make the ruler imagine that it is in the public interest to make a certain decision might be misleading. Therefore the ruler should not confine his contacts only to those around him, who probably say only things which they believe the ruler approves of, please him and avoid irritating him. As the proverb says: Your friend is he who tells you the truth, not he who believes you. This is something to which a ruler must pay attention so that after a time he does not become semi-isolated from the masses of the people. Being in contact with the masses of the people does not mean attending parties and celebrations. Contact with the people means being in contact with the mind of the masses and with the actual situation prevailing in society.

Here I would recall something which President Mubarak told a journalist: "I will not allow anybody to isolate me from the people." That is clear enough. This is in addition to the fact that he launched contacts by meeting with representatives of the opposition parties and of many bodies and even with independent figures. This suggests he will seek the views of anyone he thinks it fit to listen to, whether that person is a member of the opposition or not.

What is interesting to me is that Mubarak does not only speak meaningfully but that he has begun to implement what he says. He is also implementing what he said in his speech: "Let everyone begin with himself."

AL-HAWADITH: Is the Muslim Brotherhood considered to belong to the opposition?

Ibrahim Shukri: The Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic groups are in a different situation from that of the parties. They were not officially recognized as a party although there was a tendency to regard them as such. There was a newspaper that spoke on their behalf and its publisher was a veteran leader of the Muslim Brotherhood organization before it was dissolved.

With regard to the Islamic groups, they did not originate as an organized party with recognized leadership and clear ideas, as in the case of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Islamic groups originated in a disorganized manner, which makes it somehow difficult to paint a correct picture of them. I do not think that even those who claim to know their setup or their activities are correct in their claims.

Within those groups there are several formations including, for example, Al-Jihad and the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation [Takfir]. These formations cannot be considered organized parties. It must be said that they do exist in the universities and among young people. I hope they will not stray into the path of violence and crime in order to explain their ideas and impose their views. And as they have views which they are advocating, I must listen to their views and discuss them. I must pinpoint the facts with regard to their beliefs. This method would be in their interest and in the interest of society itself.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people say that the arrest of the Islamic groups or their going underground will leave a vacuum which will be filled by the communists. What is your opinion about this?

Ibrahim Shukri: There can be no doubt that this leads us to talk about the origin of the Islamic groups, because the impression is that they originated as a result of the persecution of the Muslim Brotherhood over a long period of time and that their ideas originated in the detention camps where the Muslim Brotherhood members were detained. These ideas were embraced by some young people, whom some ulemas blame for not properly understanding religion. The conclusion I draw from this is that any attempt at suppression or at dealing with people via detention camps and security measures cannot produce results that will remedy the situation. Views, however extremist, must always be countered by other views. Therefore, in reply to your question as to who will replace the Islamic groups, I would say: open the windows; open the doors; let the people talk loudly; allow various newspapers to exist; and let writers write what they believe in and not what they are instructed to believe in. We will then, God willing, see good results and see an outcome of the dialogue that will in the final analysis benefit stability.

AL-HAWADITH: Will you publish your newspaper again?

Ibrahim Shukri: The question of publishing a newspaper is essential and inevitable, for I cannot see a party not having a voice among the masses.

I do not insist that the license of the newspaper ASH-SHA'B be restored under the same name, much as I am anxious to have a newspaper of our own. I filed an application for the publication of a newpaper to be called AL-JAMAHIR and I chose a new chief editor for it. This was under the previous president, but unfortunately the late president regarded the application as a kind of defiance and not a genuine request.

This is because I wrote to him saying: The law gives me this right. You are being accused of trying to suppress the opposition and I am giving you the opportunity to refute this accusation.

Our desire to have our own newspaper is genuine, particularly since Mubarak has indicated that he does not want to ban the opposition from expressing its view. On the contrary, he urges the opposition to express its views. Therefore we are now preparing to publish our newspaper, which we hope will achieve all its objectives as a party newspaper expressing the party's views and programs as well as participating with the people in discussing all the people's problems.

AL-HAWADITH: What sort of Arab policy do you see for Egypt?

Ibrahim Shukri: We believe in a strategic line from which we cannot deviate -- namely that Egypt is part of the Arab nation and that we must draw up our policy in the light of this fact. Any policies that prevent us from giving expression to this reality and consolidating it as a fact are not proceeding in the right direction. For this reason we, more than anyone else, have been committed to the idea that we should be wary of anything that estranges us from the Arab countries and that we should encourage every step that takes us closer to them. We have never lost hope even in the most difficult and gloomiest circumstances. Therefore we see it as a good omen that signs are appearing on the horizon indicating that the image of Egypt in the Arab countries will improve and vice versa.

AL-HAWADITH: Even despite the continuation of Camp David?

Ibrahim Shukri: The question of Camp David should not be the axis on which the Arab nation's future revolves. We should not let Camp David get out of perspective. It is an attempt by Egypt initiated by President as-Sadat; it was his own idea and by it he was able to convince the Egyptian people that he was working in their interest. But this does not mean we should allow Camp David to be a stumbling block to any talk of Arab rapproachement.

MUBARAK SENDS MESSAGES TO SOMALI, OMANI LEADERS

NC191952 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The director of protocol, Ambassador Yahya Rifa'at, will leave Cairo tomorrow for Oman to convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Sultan Qabus. The message deals with Egypt's stance with regard to Israel's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The director of the Arab Affairs Department, Ambassador (Salah Sa'lubah), will also leave Cairo tomorrow for Mogadishu with a message from President Husni Mubarak to Somali leader Siad Barre. This message also deals with the Israeli decision to annex the Golan Heights.

BRIEFS

MUBARAK RECEIVES OIL MINISTER -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Eng Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, the deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum, who briefed his excellency on the oil situation in Egypt from the standpoint of production and exploration. The petroleum minister said that there are new oil discoveries in Egypt which have not been announced yet, because they are still being studied and evaluated. [Text] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 81 NC]

COMMUNIQUE 561: 86 IRANIANS, 15 IRAQIS KILLED

JN221639 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi forces inflicted grave losses on the Iranian enemy during their military activities in the past 24 hours. Our forces killed 86 Persians and destroyed 9 vehicles, 4 guns, 6 stockpiles of hardware, 2 observation posts and 1 personnel carrier.

Communique No 561 issued tonight by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that Iraqi losses consisted of 15 martyrs and 2 vehicles. Following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of the dignity of the Arab nation and Iraq, our valiant armed forces are fighting the forces of the regime of charlatanism and arrogance in Iran. Following are the results of our armed forces' military activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our capable units hit hard at the collapsing enemy forces in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions, killing 45 and destroying 1 vehicle and 1 stockpile of hardware.

B. One of our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in the Nowsud area, killing nine and destroying two vehicles, one gun and two stockpiles of hardware.

C. Nine were killed and two guns and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush area.

D. Eight were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.

E. Five were killed and one personnel carrier and one vehicle were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

F. Six were killed in the Dezful area.

G. Four were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin.

H. Four vehicles, one gun and two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Abadan area.

I. One vehicle and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in Mimak opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 86 dead and 1 personnel carrier, 9 vehicles, 4 guns, 6 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 15 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles damaged.

YAR VICE PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

JN161807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA) -- YAR Vice President 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad for San'a' this evening at the end of a 24-hour visit to Iraq.

'Abd al-Ghani expressed happiness at visiting Iraq and meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

In a predeparture statement to INA, 'Abd al-Ghani said that the purpose of the visit was to hold consultations on all the issues of interest to the two fraternal countries on the bilateral, Arab and international level. He added: We were impressed by the high spirits of our fraternal Iraqi people in the face of the provocations and conspiracies that are being directed against them, particularly by what Iraq, under its nationalist leadership, has achieved, which is a source of pride to the Arab nation.

The YAR official was seen off by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and ministers.

CYPRIOT PRESIDENT, DELEGATION PAY 3-DAY VISIT

JN201658 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) -- Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou arrived here tonight at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq. The guest president was accorded an official reception led by President Saddam Husayn, the Revolution Command Council members and the ministers.

The delegation accompanying the Cypriot president comprises Foreign Minister Nikolaos Rolandhis and a number of officials.

Begin Official Talks

JN211434 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA) -- Official talks between Iraq and Cyprus began this morning under President Saddam Husayn and Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou.

The Iraqi side to the talks comprised 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; RCC members Tariq 'Aziz, 'Adnan Khayrallah and Sa'dun Ghaydan; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister, and Dr Riyad Ibrahim, minister of health and head of the escort mission. The Cypriot side comprised Foreign Minister Nikolaos Rolandhis, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (Palikian), Ambassador (Maklidhis), Presidential Office Director (Vofidis) and presidential adviser Christofides.

At the beginning of the talks, President Saddam Husayn welcomed the guest president and his delegation, expressing his pride as well as that of the Iraqi people's in this visit which he said will help strengthen relations between the two friendly countries. The president then reviewed Iraq's stand on the conflict with Iran, stressing that Iraq entered this war to defend its sovereignty and rights and that Iraq was and is still ready to reach a peaceful settlement on the basis of the principles in which the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations believe: respect for sovereignty, nonintervention in others' internal affairs and nonacquisition of rights by force at the expense of others.

Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou showed understanding of Iraq's stand, which aims at reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Iran.

Discussions focused on bilateral relations and ways of developing them in all fields. The two sides also discussed joint means to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and bolster relations among this movement's states. They also reviewed Iraq's role in this movement, especially since Iraq will be hosting the forthcoming nonaligned summit. The Cypriot president praised Iraq's role in this respect.

The talks also dealt with international issues of mutual interest as well as the situation in Cyprus. Iraq stressed its principled stand in supporting the UN resolutions in this regard as unanimously approved by all parties, since these resolutions stress Cyprus' territorial integrity, independence and nonalignment. During the talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, the two sides expressed their desire to develop bilateral relations in the various fields.

Ramadan Confers With Rolandhis

JN211843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, met here tonight with Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikolaos Rolandhis. Ramadan said that President Spiros Kiprianou's visit to Iraq reflects the strong ties of friendship that bind the two countries. He added that the topics which were discussed by Presidents Saddam Husayn and Kiprianou expressed the common understanding of the basic issues in the area. Ramadan expressed his hope that the Cypriot problem will be solved.

The Cypriot minister stressed the importance of solidarity between the international and Arab communities for solving his country's issue. He added that his country is eager to continue its political course within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement principles. He said: We are also eager to strengthen our relations with the Arab states and with Iraq in particular because it is one of the leading states in the area.

The meeting was attended by RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan.

Kiprianou Leaves Baghdad

JN221649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) -- Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou left Baghdad today at the end of a 3-day official visit to Iraq. He was seen off at the airport by President Saddam Husayn; Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and a number of ministers and RCC members.

AL-ASAD BLAMED FOR IRAQI EMBASSY EXPLOSION

JN170832 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] Yesterday, a booby-trapped car drove toward the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. The embassy guards opened fire, but the car blew up causing a huge explosion. Reports say over 20 members of the embassy staff were martyred and scores of other people were injured and that the final figure could rise to 100 dead or wounded. This is today's report. Our opinion on it is as follows:

First of all, the method used in carrying out the operation against the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut is the same as that used in carrying out the Al-Azbakiyah operation in Damascus. There is similarity in planning, implementation and weapon used -- booby-trapped cars. All this reveals the quarter which carried out these mean and treacherous operations.

Secondly, picking the Iraqi Embassy in western Beirut as target confirms the identity of the quarter behind this crime; it is the quarter backing the racist Persian and Zionist enemies against Iraq. It is not at all unusual for Hafiz al-Asad, who has defended the racist Persians, considered fraternal Iraq as the aggressor and volunteered to deny the accusation about Iran's dealings with the Zionist enemy, an accusation which was admitted by the Persians themselves; we say, it is not at all unusual for Hafiz al-Asad, who has openly revealed his treasonous Shu'ubist stand against the pan-Arab cause, which is defended by fraternal Iraq, to instruct his gangs, or to collude with the Shu'ubist Persian gang, Al-Amal, to carry out this mean operation.

Thirdly, the timing of the crime shows that Hafiz al-Asad wanted to cover his defeatism, treason and hopeless position vis-a-vis the annexation of Arab Golan by the Zionist entity, the ally of the racist Persians.

Indeed, compatriots, Hafiz al-Asad caused the explosion at the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, is detaining our sons throughout Syria and is blowing up booby-trapped cars in order to liberate the Golan from Zionist occupation. His answer to the Zionist measure is to shed more Arab blood and to further support the enemies of Arabism who are openly and shamelessly dealing with the Zionist entity.

Fourthly, the operation against the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut acquits the nationalist movement in our country of the Al-Azbakiyah massacre and tangibly proves that the traitorous Al-Asad regime carried out that crime to justify further bloodshed inside and outside the country.

The assassination of Arab strugglers such as martyr Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Kayyali and Tahsin al-Atrash, the provocation of sedition in Tripoli and the explosion of cars in Al-Azbakiyah and in the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut are all the work of the coward regime of Hafiz and Rif'at. However, our people will know how to punish the traitors who sold the Golan and agreed with the Zionists, Americans and Persians against the Arab nation.

ATH-THAWRAH INTERVIEWS USSR OFFICIAL GILASHVILI

JN190850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA) -- A ranking Soviet official has described relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union as good and close, adding that these relations are based on cooperation, friendship, understanding and mutual respect.

Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said in a press statement published by ATH-THAWRAH here today that Iraqi-Soviet relations are based on a unified ground of struggle against colonialism, imperialism and Zionism and on resisting all kinds of oppression, exploitation and racial discrimination in the world.

It is to be recalled that the Soviet official recently visited Iraq at the head of a high-ranking Soviet delegation and had talks with National Assembly speaker Na'im Haddad and with a number of Iraqi officials.

Gilashvili said that his talks in Iraq will strengthen the good relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union and will establish a strong basis for cooperation and friendship. He added that Iraq and the Soviet Union enjoy identical points of view on the various topics that were discussed. The two countries, he said, are becoming closer in their assessment of the international and Arab situation.

He said the visit enabled him to formulate a good idea about Iraq's rapid progress and about the nature of work to implement the development plans. He said the Iraqi people are working with zeal and high spirits to build a new life, adding that he admires the Iraqi people. He said Iraq is currently witnessing a comprehensive development upsurge and Iraq is introducing deep and radical transformations.

NORMAL OIL FLOW TO TRIPOLI RESUMED VIA SYRIA

JN171355 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Dec 81 p 24

[Text] Damascus (QNA) -- It was learned from the Syrian Oil and Mineral Wealth Ministry sources yesterday that Iraqi oil has begun to flow at the normal rate through Syria to the Tripoli refinery in northern Lebanon.

The normal oil flow began the day before yesterday after the pipeline was repaired to secure the Tripoli refinery's needs and return it to full capacity to secure Lebanon's energy.

There was 1 week of experimental pumping before the flow was restored to its normal rate.

KURDISH RADIO CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S GOLAN DECISION

JN171513 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1500 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] We support the fraternal Syrian people's struggle in confronting the new Israeli aggressive act of annexing the occupied Golan Heights and dominating it. Condemnations and denunciations are increasing against the Israeli decision to control and annex the occupied Golan Heights.

All the progressive and freedom forces in the region and the world denounce this decision and say that it contravenes international law and the UN Charter, and is a racist attempt to (?expand) Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories. The Israeli aggressive step has come at a time when imperialist Zionist and reactionary plots and plans are being stepped up to strike at the progressive and freedom forces and regimes in the region and in the Gulf.

This procedure has followed the failure of the reactionary Saudi plan which has been rejected by the Arab Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, especially steadfast Syria.

Progressive voices all over the world are being raised in solidarity with Arab Syria and the fraternal Syrian people and will confront this mean plot.

On behalf of the Kurdish people and our Kurdistan Democratic Party, we express our full support for the fraternal Syrian people and their government under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in the just struggle against the Zionist aggressive attempt to annex the Golan Heights. We reiterate our complete solidarity with the Arab national liberation movement, particularly the Palestinian resistance, headed by the PLO, in the struggle to restore the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights, and to regain the legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian state on the land and soil of its own country. Long live the lasting brotherhood between the Arab and Kurdish nations.

USSR REPORTEDLY TO UNDERTAKE MIDEAST INITIATIVE

JN221158 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 81 pp 1, 21

[Text] Damascus, (QNA) -- The QNA correspondent in Damascus has learned from responsible Palestinian sources that the Soviet Union will shortly undertake an international diplomatic move to solve the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem.

These sources revealed that Soviet envoy Michail Sytenko, who recently visited Beirut, was not on a factfinding mission as previously reported, but was carrying a new Soviet initiative aimed at solving the Palestinian issue. The sources added that this initiative includes a number of clauses -- on total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories; the establishment of a Palestinian state under the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative; the provision of international guarantees under the UN Security Council's supervision and a revival of the principles of the U.S.-Soviet statement of October 1977, which was disavowed by the United States a few days later under Israeli pressure by signing the U.S.-Zionist memorandum of understanding, which conflicted with this statement.

AD-DUSTUR FEARS U.S. VETO AT SECURITY COUNCIL

JN221024 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 81 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Washington and the Coming Test"]

[Text] It was not strange that Israel should rebel against Washington's decision to suspend the strategic cooperation agreement and respond violently and arrogantly by cancelling the agreement because Tel Aviv has been used to U.S. retreat before Israel's angry and excited voice against any step which conflicts with Tel Aviv's expansionist ambitions.

Thus, the clamor made by Israel and Washington's moderate response, does not reflect any negative aspects of U.S.-Israeli relations which were and still are strong, even before the signing of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. These relations will naturally not be influenced by the suspension or cancellation of this memorandum.

Despite its awareness of this fact, Israel's anger and rebellion against the U.S. decision aim at forestalling and warning Washington against supporting any sanctions which could be imposed on the Zionist entity if it does not respond to the Security Council resolution which considers the annexation of the Golan canceled and which asks Israel to rescind this step which is contrary to international law. Moreover, Begin has threatened Washington that withdrawal from Sinai would be halted and the situation in Lebanon would exploded.

What raises questions, fears and doubts is the quick U.S. suspension of both the strategic cooperation agreement and the purchase of $200 million worth of Israeli arms as a punishment to Israel for annexing the Golan, measures which no side asked for and which Washington could have postponed until the Security Council meeting on 5 January when it would have been able to participate with the international community in adopting collective measures and imposing sanctions on Israel.

We are afraid that this early U.S. step was implemented so that the United States would stand in the face of any international sanctions against Israel and would use the veto to foil any decision adopted by the Security Council on the pretext that the U.S. sanctions were sufficient.

We warn the United States against this dangerous game which aims at peddling the Israeli decision of annexing the Golan under the cover of abrogating the strategic cooperation agreement. This abrogation will not cancel the annexation of the Golan. On the contrary, it paves the way for a similar Israeli step -- to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as long as Israel knows that it will escape international punishment.

We also warn the Arab states against excessive optimism and dependence on changeable U.S. stands. We demand quick work for a collective Arab stand which can confront all eventualities.

The real U.S. stand will be revealed on 5 January when Washington will either prove that it will continue to oppose the annexation of the Golan and participate in imposing sanctions on Israel, or reveal all its cards when the stands of all the states, including the United States, will be defined.

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES IRAQI ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

JN211254 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today the delegation of the Iraqi National Assembly headed by Na'im Hadda, speaker of the assembly and member of the Revolution Command Council. His highness praised the sacrifices being made by fraternal Iraq -- leadership, army and people -- in safeguarding its dignity and its sovereignty over its territory and waters.

His highness called on the Arab nation to close its ranks and to face up to the challenges. He pointed out that the strengthening of fraternal ties, coordination and cooperation whose pillars were founded by the leader His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is the beginning of the road toward facing the challenges.

Na'im Haddad then spoke. He praised the model relations between the two fraternal countries and stressed that Jordan's pan-Arab stand will make Iraq more determined to achieve final victory. Haddad asserted that the war on the eastern flank of the Arab nation is in defense of the Arab nation and its steadfastness. He said that the Iraqi soldiers are fighting like heroes and like the followers of the prophet.

The meeting was attended by Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

BRIEFS

SECURITY DIRECTOR APPOINTED -- A royal decree has been issued approving the Cabinet's decision appointing staff Lt Gen Muhammad Idris as director of public security as of 15 December 1981. The Cabinet had adopted a decision retiring staff Maj Gen Ma'mun Khalil, director of public security, upon his request as of 12 December 1981. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 81 JN]

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- Amman, 16 Dec (PETRA) -- His Majesty King Husayn received at Raghadan Palace today the credentials of Andrei Cervencovici, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Royal Hashemite Court. He also received the credentials of Kim Chae-song, ambassador of South Korea. [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Dec 81 JN]

NATIONAL MOVEMENT REJECTS AL-JUMAYYIL'S PLAN

NC190823 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] The Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement yesterday affirmed its categorical rejection of the plans aimed at striking at the Palestinian-Lebanese national armed presence in southern Lebanon and called for steadfastness in the face of the Israeli military threats and for confronting any aggression against southern Lebanon or against the whole of Lebanon.

The council also affirmed its categorical rejection of any discussion about entrusting security tasks to the Lebanese Army, considering this army synonymous with the Phalangist militia and its branches, especially the Deuxieme Bureau, a source that organizes terrorist operations against the national areas.

The council affirmed its rejection of Bashir al-Jumayyil's initiative, explaining the reasons for the rejection. The Central Political Council of the Lebanese progressive and national forces and parties at its meeting yesterday also discussed the developments in the political and security situation within the framework of the current events on the Arab level.

BA'TH FACTION CLAIMS BOMBING IRAQ BEIRUT EMBASSY

NC192154 Paris AFP in English 2136 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] Beirut, 19 Dec (AFP) -- A dissident faction of the Lebanese Ba'th Socialist Party today became the third group to claim responsibility for blowing up the Iraqi Embassy here on December 15. A man who phoned to the AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE news bureau here said an "'Adnan Husayn" group had been able to carry out the attack "thanks to comrades (of the Ba'th Party) who infiltrated the clique of (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn." 'Adnan Husayn was a former high official of the Iraqi Ba'th Party executed for plotting against President Husayn. The caller said the embassy blew up when a meeting was being held inside by "Iraqi intelligence agents in charge of assassinations in the Middle East and Europe." The blast killed about 52 people, including 20 believed to be still under the rubble. Responsibility was previously claimed by a "General Command of the Iraqi Liberation Army" and by the "Ad-Da'waph Islamic Party" in Tehran. Today's caller said more attacks would be carried out until "authentic Ba'thists" had come back to power in Iraq.

IRAQ PARTY CLAIMS BEIRUT BOMBING RESPONSIBILITY

NC211340 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 21 Dec (AFP) -- The explosion that demolished the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut last week was a suicide mission in which the commando chief drove a dynamite-filled car into the side of the building, the Iraqi opposition movement "Islamic Ad- a'wah Party" said today. In a statement to AFP, Ad-Da'wah claimed sole responsibility and said it would be followed by attacks against other Iraqi embassies around the world. All other members of the commando unit got away safely, the statement said. It said that about "300 mercenaries of the Ba'th regime in the embassy had been killed or wounded." Ad-da'wah is one of three groups claiming responsibility for the Beirut bombing, which officially killed at least 23. Responsibility has also been claimed by the Iraqi Liberation Army Command and a dissident faction of the Ba'th Socialist Party.) The reason the 150 kg (330 lbs) of TNT in the Volvo car demolished the embassy, said the statement, was that it detonated an ammunition dump located behind the building, a factor not mentioned in the official police report. The statement said the driver, whose name was not given, had come to Lebanon a year ago and trained six months for the attack. Ad-da'wah also claimed responsibility for last month's attempted assassination of Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn, and a November, 1980 attack on the Iraqi Embassy in Rome.

RADIO NOTES SIGNIFICANCE OF AL-ASAD TOUR

JN221459 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The new developments in the Arab region, particularly the Golan issue, will feature prominently in the important talks which President Haviz al-Asad will hold during his current tour of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula. Indeed, the Zionist enemy's recent measures on and annexation of the Golan, its refusal to obey the UN Security Council decision and Begin's arrogant and supercilious statements all give this issue a special national and pan-Arab significance.

The discussion of such a national and pan-Arab issue with several Arab officials is tantamount to a discussion of the crux, origin and causes of the region's dispute, since the Golan issue features as an urgent issue with grave dimensions, an issue that necessitates a firm and cohesive Arab stand to confront this Israeli conceit and this Zionist defiance of the international community's will.

Thus, from this perspective, President Hafiz al-Asad's tour constitutes a serious and sincere move toward an Arab action that will be able to make the Arab will impregnable to Israeli provocations and challenges and the Zionist enemy's excesses in its attack on pan-Arab goals for which the Arab nation is aspiring.

From this perspective too, President Hafiz al-Asad's tour of the Gulf states and the Arabian Peninsula reflects a dire need for a single Arab viewpoint and stand on the Golan's annexation, on the threats resulting from this annexation and on the battle that has begun in the international arena and forum against the Israeli decision.

Thus, this Syrian move aspires to secure and guarantee a cohesive and strong Arab situation that is prepared to deal appropriately with the developments resulting from the Golan's annexation. The UN Security Council's decision -- which rejects the annexation decision and demands that Israel retract this decision by 5 January -- constitutes a positive base for an active Arab move prior to the convocation of the forthcoming UN Security Council's session to consider adopting international measures against Israel. It also gives impetus to the unified Arab stand, making it effective, capable of applying pressure in favor of the Arab decision issue -- the Golan issue -- and of exercising its influence in order to prove first and last that the Arab territory and fateful Arab issues constitute an indivisible whole and that Israel cannot launch aggression or defy without punishment and without the unified Arab will being able to cut it and its aggressive nature down to size.

With its potential, the Arab intrinsic strength is capable of aborting Zionist expansionist schemes and plans.

With its decision to annex the Golan, Israel has exposed its ugly terrorist face to all the world states without exception. It has also shown the extent of its malice against the Arab nation and also that it has neither stopped nor intends to stop implementing its expansionist Zionist scheme.

Thus with their reactions and stands on the Zionist decision, the Arabs have shown readiness to place their capabilities in confrontation with this expansionist Zionist folly.

President Hafiz al-Asad's Arab tour -- which begins today -- constitutes a clear practical proof to Israel and the world's Zionist movement, proof that Arab reactions to the annexation decision can actually be interpreted in cohesive Arab work that is based on firm pan-Arab and political foundations and capable of confronting this expansionist and aggressive Israeli trend with greater force than our enemies expect.

AFP REPORTS DEATH OF BA'TH FACTION LEADER

NC221626 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Mamduh Haddad, leader of the "avant-garde" section of Syria's ruling Ba'th Party, committed suicide in his home at Homs yesterday, official sources said here today.

Mr Haddad was said to have committed suicide when police arrived at his home to arrest him in connection with "allegations of corruption."

Other reports today said that Mr Haddad was murdered at his home and that the murderer had been arrested.

FATAH, SYRIAN OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS ON ISRAEL

JN221655 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] In Damascus, brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief and Fatah Central Committee member, and Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], commander of central operations and Central Committee member, have continued their meetings with top Syrian military officials to discuss the confrontation of any possible Zionist attack.

At noon today, they met with Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Armed Forces.

Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid met yesterday evening with Gen Mustafa Talas, Sryian defense minister.

During this meeting, Israeli movements and military concentrations in southern Lebanon and new developments and moves were discussed particularly those since the Zionist decision to annex the Golan. Steps that should be taken for preparedness and alertness and the necessary coordination of efforts in the face of the expected movements of any possible aggression were also discussed.

HA'ARETZ: FORD PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR GOLAN STAY

TA231315 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Dec 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Dan Margalit]

[Text] While serving as prime minister, MK Rabin received a secret written commitment from President Ford that the United States would support a permanent Israeli presence in the Golan. Ford wrote to Rabin that his country would adopt such a position in the course of negotiations between Israel and Syria. It is feared in Jerusalem that the United States has reneged on this pledge following the annexation of the Golan initiated by Mr Begin.

The commitment was given to Israel within the framework of the Israeli-Egyptian interim agreement and the accompanying U.S. commitments. That agreement was signed in September 1975. The United States undertook, in the framework of that agreement, to send 200 technicians to Israel to man the early warning stations.

The agreement was signed during the post-Vietnam era, when there was strong opposition in the United States to the undertaking of any international commitment. The U.S. Congress -- particularly the Israeli friends in it such as Sen Clifford Case from New Jersey -- explained to President Ford that no secret commitment he gave to a foreign country would bind the United States. The only valid agreements are those endorsed by Congress, Case explained, and the struggle for endorsing all the other commitments to Israel lasted for about 1 month (they did not mention the Golan Heights at all).

At that stage, the U.S. administration decided not to ask Congress to endorse President Ford's commitment to Rabin regarding the Golan issue. Two Israeli diplomats then serving in Washington -- Simha Dinitz and Tzvi Rafiah -- were told of the secret letter. President Ford decided to divulge secretly to two veteran senators known as friends of Israel -- Republican Case and Democrat Hubert Humphrey -- the commitment he had given Israel regarding the Golan. He did not bring the matter to the plenary meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for approval. Case, who was opposed to any secret commitment on the part of the United States, agreed to keep the matter secret, since he was a steadfast friend of Israel.

Israel, for its part, undertook to keep Ford's pledge secret, and nothing of its content was leaked until now. Originally, that commitment began even earlier than that. President Nixon, Ford's predecessor, gave an verbal pledge to Golda Me'ir that his country would support a permanent Israeli hold on the Golan Heights when settlement negotiations between Israel and Syria took place.

Later Rabin succeeded in turning the verbal promise into a written commitment from Ford, and this was regarded as a major policy achievement of his Cabinet by the few who were in on the secret. MK Rabin still has Ford's letter in his possession.

With Mr Begin's decision to annex the Golan Heights and the angry reaction by President Reagan and his aides who flatly reject this step, it is very much feared that the United States no longer sees itself bound by that commitment.

Mr Rabin stated recently that he is opposed to the step of Prime Minister Begin, who annexed the Golan and precipitated the strong U.S. reaction.

Late last night it was learned that the U.S. document talks of U.S. support for keeping the entire Golan Heights area in Israel's hands except for "cosmetic alterations."

Rabin Comments

TA231317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin says when he was prime minister he had grounds for believing that the United States would not force Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights in the event of negotiations with Syria. This morning, the newspaper HA'ARETZ reported that the United States gave Israel a written undertaking that it would support Israel's remaining on the Heights.

Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el reporter, Rabin refused to comment on this but he did say all the material he possessed in his capacity as prime minister was handed over to the Begin government. Rabin did not know whether the law extending Israeli law to the Golan had torpedoed the agreement he reached with the U.S. administration but he was sure it had not helped.

KNESSET DEBATES MOTION OF NONCONFIDENCE

TA231025 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0925 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori on Knesset debate on the non-confidence motion submitted by the Shinuy faction, including address by Foreign Minister Shamir -- live]

[Text] [Mishori] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is now on the podium replying to the motion of nonconfidence submitted by MK Amnon Rubinstein on Shinuy. Rubinstein spoke about the ups and downs, the leaping from one extreme to the other in all aspects of relations with the United States. Rubinstein said that Mr Begin's vocabulary moves with the speed of light from the peak of eternal bliss to the abyss of despair. How can the U.S. President turn from being a great friend into a wicked and cruel man within 4 months? Rubinstein asked. Begin misled the nation when he praised Reagan -- according to Rubinstein. Who will fight on the two fronts opened by the government, against both the Soviet Union and the United States? Rubinstein claimed that the government was surprised and astonished by the U.S. reaction, a reaction which was to be expected, plain and predetermined as far as the Golan Heights Law is concerned.

The foreign minister is now replying to the motion of nonconfidence. Earlier, we were told that the debate will be held in short form, namely, the factions will be given 10 minutes for their announcements. The coalition heads have apparently despaired of the possibility of recruiting 61 Knesset members to gain an absolute rather than a simple majority. Let us now listen to Minister Shamir's remarks:

[Shamir -- picking up in midsentence] so-called moderation in the Syrian position, neither the Soviet Union -- Syria's ally, nor anybody else in the United Nations. The words were received with absolute apathy, as if they had been a natural fact. It did not prevent the United States from cooperating with Al-Asad's representatives at the Security Council in formulating a resolution denouncing Israel. This cooperation was not even disrupted when the Syrian representatives objected to mentioning [UN Security Council Resolution] 242 in the resolution, as it is known that Syria has never accepted this resolution. This extreme Syrian position did not prevent the 10 EEC countries from issuing a sharp denunciation, while absolutely ignoring Syria's aggressive position. Incidentally, in referring to this decision of the 10 EEC countries, LE MONDE wrote as follows: The 10 countries adopted two decisions: One clear and sharp and the second in an obscure and vague language. The clear and sharp decision, of course, referred to Israel whereas the vague decision referred to Poland and the cruel oppression there. This is not only typical of Europe. To our regret, this is also typical of the United States and the entire Western world.

However, the U.S. Government did not just make do with denunciations; it also delivered punitive blows at Israel, threatening to turn the memorandum of understanding -- another link in the strong chain of U.S.-Israeli relations -- into a means of pressure which might tie Israel's hands in its struggle for reasonable peace conditions which would assure its existence and future.

The question posed by the public and in the Knesset today is: Must these steps be accepted -- even when coming from friends -- with silence, restraint, and surrender or should we rebel, alert and warn, especially when what is at stake is our security and existence. Unfair moves, even when coming from friends, do not hurt less. On the contrary, frequently they are more painful and harmful. Sometimes it makes no sense to protest and raise hell about blows dealt by enemies since this only encounters a wall of hatred. However, to friends and the government of a nation to which we feel close and tied through thousands of values and joint principles, it is a mandatory and supreme obligation to sincerely tell what we feel, to point out their mistake and to demand that the error be corrected. We would be harming the relations of deep friendship between us and the largest democracy of our times if we did not talk to it at this time with the utmost sincerity, and we are telling it and the U.S. Government what its friends in Israel feel and think today.

Indeed, we have been deeply hurt. Israel will never accept this new system of punitive reactions accompanying every occurrence of differences of opinion. This is an unacceptable and insufferable phenomenon in the relationship between friendly countries. It is no secret -- nobody has ever tried to hide it -- that there have been and there will be differences of opinion between the United States and Israel. It is only natural, since there can be no similarity of interests between such different countries. Our differences usually revolved around two issues -- the issue of the borders and the ways to defend our security. On these two issues -- which are the issues most vital and important to our life as a people and as a state -- Israel must religiously maintain its freedom to act and decide. Any concession on our freedom on these two issues will seriously jeopardize our existence and future.

We are (?aware) of the long-time trends within the U.S. establishment to dictate to Israel a return to the strangling borders of 4 June 1967, in one way or another. Referring to this, former Israeli prime ministers have said that no Israeli Government would give in to dictates of this sort unless it were to betray its duty and obligation. [heckling by unidentified MK]

This is not the point, my friend. The 14 December Knesset decision to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights was the expression of the sovereign and free desire of the State of Israel to determine its life framework, following its right and its security needs. This is an important and decisive move in our war for the sake of Eretz Yisra'el.

The United States is entitled not to agree to our decision and express its bitterness. However, we could not fail to notice the hasty and humiliating blow dealt to us by means of decrees [gzerot] referring to the memorandum of understanding which, precisely due to the obstinate stand of the U.S. representatives, did not refer to the relations between us and our neighbors at all. It was the prime minister's duty to firmly stand up against this serious humiliation. [heckling by Alignment MK Mikha'el Bar-Zohar who urges the foreign minister to make clear whether the memorandum of understanding has been or has not been canceled]

[Shamir] [several words indistinct]...the prime minister was not authorized to say the words he uttered to the U.S. ambassador without a Cabinet decision. [further heckling by MK Bar-Zohar, Moshe Shahal and Sara Doron; Knesset speaker calls for order]

In his capacity as prime minister, he always speaks on behalf of the government. It is his prerogative and authority. He is entitled and authorized to do so, otherwise he could not discharge his duties. What is all the furor about? [heckling by unidentified MK who says that there is no government]

It is true, there is no government to your liking. There are some people who described Begin's remarks as sharp. This is true. However, the U.S. moves dictated.... [further heckling, Knesset speaker calls for order]

Mr Speaker, there are some people who described Begin's words as sharp. True, they were sharp. However, the U.S. moves dictated and called for a sharp and firm reaction. Past experience shows that countries frequently collapsed because they capitulated to the considerations and persuasion of friends. Munich is a classic example; there are other examples but I will not mention them today. This political situation sometimes calls for sharp exchanges, even between friends, and when necessary one should not refrain from it because both the interests and the friendship would otherwise be damaged.

The prime minister's reaction conveyed to the U.S. ambassador to Israel was not an impulsive one. It was calculated and planned and each word was weighed before it was uttered. Notwithstanding the sharpness of the remarks, one should not attach to them things that they did not contain. The prime minister did not accuse the U.S. Government -- as MK Rubinstein stated here earlier and as Dr Kissinger stated elsewhere -- of anti-semitism and of adopting a vassal attitude toward Israel. He noted that the efforts to muster a majority in the Senate for the approval of the AWACS deal had been accompanied by several hideous anti-Semitic phenomena -- this is a known fact. As for the vassal attitude, it was mentioned in a rhetorical question which, as everybody knows, is always answered in the negative. We will also be willing to send the transcript of the talk to Dr Kissinger so as to to point out his mistake. We have already become used to that disreputable phenomenon that whenever we are in a state of confrontation with foreign elements, that external confrontation is accompanied by an internal confrontation which takes the form of a no-confidence motion. This does not attest to a sense of national responsibility and it does not gain respect for Israel. It seems to me that there are times better suited for submitting no-confidence motions than at this time when our enemies are rejoicing and when we have serious differences of opinion with our friends.

The Shinuy faction wanted to show its muscle; all right, but I fail to understand why the Alignment faction got dragged in, for a few days ago several Alignment Knesset members stepped back from an attempt to submit such a motion to the Knesset, the motive being a weighty one — I read about it in DAVAR. According to DAVAR, MK Peres said the following, quote: One should not express nonconfidence in the government at a time when Israel is threatened with sanctions at the Security Council which would come after its denunciation. [Heckling by various Knesset members, Knesset speaker calls for order]

The question is not one of abstaining from submitting motions of nonconfidence, the question is one of the day and the timing for submitting these motions. You, the Alignment, have said that when sanctions by the Security Council threaten us it is not appropriate to submit motions of nonconfidence. Well, what happened today? Has this threat suddenly disappeared? How did the Shinuy faction members change your mind? [heckling by various Knesset members, Knesset speaker calls for order]

Mr Speaker, today we did not hear from MK Rubinstein new reasons for his opposition to this government's policy and to the policy of the prime minister. We did not hear anything new and we have become used to witnessing the apocalyptic visions and the black prophesies about there being no confidence in us ever since this government rose to power. We are certain that just as these prophecies have proved false to date, so will they not come true in the future.

MK Rubinstein spoke about a change in our relationship with the United States, about ups and downs in our relations and in our evaluations. These ups and downs are nothing new in these relations. This is typical of relations between countries — relations are not a rigid and unchangeable fact.

However, in every instance when we had differences of opinion we emphasized that they were ephemeral and that the basic friendship is firm and permanent and it will continue to survive the crises sometimes affecting this friendship just as they have survived in the past. This evaluation has not changed today either.

Mr Speaker, be that as it may, we did not expect the opposition to express its confidence. However, we are certain of the confidence of the vast majority of the nation which felt that the prime minister had put into words what many people sensed and thought.

[Mi3hori cuts Shamir in midsentence] We have heard most of Shamir's speech. He will soon leave the podium. Each faction will then speak for 10 minutes -- there are 9 factions in the Knesset. Therefore we hope that in less than 2 hours the vote will take place.

Motion Defeated

TA231308 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] It has just been reported from the Knesset that the motion of nonconfidence submitted by the Shinuy faction has been defeated by a vote of 57 to 47. The TELEM and Tehiya factions joined the coalition in the vote. Our Knesset correspondent, Razi Barqay, reports that Prime Minister Menahem Begin rushed to the vote and participated in it.

MA'ARIV REPORTS BEGIN REMARKS ON SINAI

TA221511 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Dec 81 p 2

[Ilan Kfir report]

[Text] At the Cabinet session held at his Jerusalem residence on 21 December, Prime Minister Begin stated that Israel will complete the evacuation of Sinai on time and will withdraw to the international border on 24 April 1982, as was decided in the peace agreement. The session was devoted to a report on the sharp words the prime minister had with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

Mr Begin emphasized that the government was firm in its decision to complete the evacuation of Sinai on time and no action in Yamit will deter it. "We will do this, let there be no doubt about it," the prime minister said.

Jerusalem has not yet received a reply from the European countries concerning their willingness to join the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] on the basis of the U.S.-Israeli document requiring them to declare their acceptance of the Camp David agreements and the agreement establishing the MFO.

Political sources have reported that, according to reports from Europe, Britain is trying to torpedo European participation in the MFO. The British position is that in the wake of the Israeli unilateral move in the Golan Heights, Europe must condemn Israel's policy and announce nonparticipation in the MFO.

Israeli officials in Jerusalem believe that the European countries will formulate a final answer regarding their position only after the UN Security Council's debate on the Golan Heights Law.

Yesterday a U.S. diplomatic source told MA'ARIV that the United States was certain that the MFO would be established and would deploy in Sinai on the designated date in the peace agreement.

The prime minister and the U.S. Embassy in Israel yesterday vigorously denied reports that the prime minister had informed Ambassador Lewis, during their talk, that Israel would not complete the evacuation of Sinai if the MFO was not positioned in the area beforehand. The head of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Yehi'el Qadishay, said that the minutes of the talk prove that Mr Begin did not discuss the topic of the MFO at all with Ambassador Lewis.

In this context, it was emerged that Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, who is now acting prime minister, was not invited to participate in two events of prime political-security importance: A senior consultation about the security situation on the northern border, and Mr Begin's talk with Ambassador Lewis. Only Ministers Ari'el Sharon and Yitzhaq Shamir were invited to these events.

Liberal ministers yesterday had serious complaints about discrimination against them in the country's decision-making process on important matters, saying that this situation could not continue.

Yesterday Cabinet ministers' criticism over Mr Begin's latest moves -- and especially of his style of addressing U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis -- became more sever. One of the ministers said yesterday that, had the prime minister brought the text of his remarks to Ambassador Lewis to the Cabinet for prior approval, it was doubtful if his sharp style would have gained the support of the majority of ministers.

Those ministers criticizing the prime minister pointed out that Israel indeed had to react firmly to the United States' punitive measures, but it should have done so diplomatically.

Also criticized was the prime minister's unusual move of permitting the contents of the what he said to Ambassador Lewis to be publicized by Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or at a Jerusalen street corner before Mr Lewis had the opportunity to report on this to his government.

A decision is being formulated among Cabinet ministers to speed up the establishment of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs in order to bring the Cabinet back onto the track of proper activity.

BEGIN SELECTS MINISTERIAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

TA221550 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Report by political correspondent Gad Becker in the Jerusalem studio -- live]

[Text] It appears that the prime minister has decided to put an end to the problem which has somewhat hampered this government's functioning since its establishment -- the problem of setting up a Ministerial Defense Affairs Committee, which is the most important government committee.

According to the details we now have at hand, it will be a 10-member committee, involving 10 of the 17 Cabinet members. According to what we currently know, the committee is, naturally, headed by the prime minister. With him on the committee will be Ministers Sharon, Shamir, Ehrlich, Burg, Hammer, Moda'i Shostak, and David Levi, as well as Minister abu-Hatzera, who is the representative of TAMI, and whose place will remain vacant until the completion of his trial.

So this is a 10-member committee. The prime minister has made enormous efforts to form it since the establishment of his Cabinet, but he encountered difficulties. He had far too many candidates -- almost 13 -- for that committee, and he succeeded in limiting it to 10.

This is still not the official completion of the Ministerial Defense Committee, as the final decision on this will have to be passed by the Cabinet. This will probably be done at its upcoming session. Let us note that so far the absence of this committee has constituted a problem, and often there were highly sensitive debates on political and security matters, which, due to their nature, should have been discussed by such a committee, but were discussed by even more limited and unfofficial forums.

This forum most of the time comprised the prime minister and Ministers Shamir, Sharon, Ehrlich and Burg only and quite often some ministers complained that there was no proper working procedure and that appropriate reports were not being presented to the Cabinet.

To recap, the prime minister appears to have already made a final decision on the committee, and it numbers 10 ministers. Initially, one can safely say that there will be reservations by members who are not on that committee -- let us mention Minister Tzipori who more than once announced that he regarded himself as a regular member of that committee, and yet the prime minister has not included him on it.

Also, let us note that this morning the prime minister called several ministers -- most of whom were mentioned in an earlier list -- to his residence. Perhaps that summoning had to do with this fresh establishment of the Israeli Cabinet's Ministerial Defense Affairs Committee.

More on Committee Makeup

TA222000 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister today set up the Ministerial Defense Affairs Committee, headed by the prime minister, and including 10 cabinet ministers who represent all the coalition factions. Our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, reports from our Tel Aviv studio:

During a meeting held in his residence at 1100 today, the prime minister announced the composition of the ministerial committee, the establishment of which has been delayed since the Cabinet was formed. The committee members are: Prime Minister Menahem Begin -- chairman; Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon; Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir; Agriculture Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sima Ehrlich; Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg; Justice Minister Moshe Nisim; Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i; Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak; Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Education and Culture Minister Zvulun Hammer.

Labor and Social Betterment Minister Aharon abu-Hatzera will probably be added to the committee upon his return from his leave.

The establishment of the committee took this long because of the demand of many ministers that they be on it. Not long ago, the Cabinet authorized Begin to set up the committee in whatever composition he deemed appropriate.

The absence of such a committee was strongly felt particularly in the last few weeks, when the Cabinet had to make important decisions in foreign and security affairs. This week, some ministers even criticized the decision-making procedure, maintaining that the Cabinet's malfunctioning resulted from the absence of that committee.

Government circles today anticipated infuriated reaction by some ministers who were not included in the committee, such as Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. This morning the newly-established ministerial committee heard a report by the defense minister on his most recent tour of Africa.

MITTERRAND FEB VISIT REPORTEDLY POSTPONED

TA221939 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1923 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand has postponed his visit to Israel, which was scheduled for 10 February. Our political correspondent reports that the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry had requested a French Government clarification of the conflicting reports published in the last few days on Mitterrand's visit to Israel.

The French Foreign Ministry replied that a final decision on the visit and the date for it will be held after the UN Security Council debate on the Golan annexation law is concluded.

HABIB REPORTEDLY MET SOVIET DIPLOMAT IN AMMAN

TA221423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] U.S. diplomat Philip Habib and Assistant Soviet Foreign Minister Mikhail Sytenko met secretly in Amman at the beginning of this month and discussed the situation in Lebanon and the chances for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The meeting was held at Jordan's initiative.

Arab sources told our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that Philip Habib asked the Soviet diplomat to explain to Syria's president that the Soviet Union was also interested in calm in Lebanon, in order to persuade Al-Asad to remove his missiles from the Lebanon's al-Biqa' valley. The two diplomats also discussed a deal, according to which the United States would not oppose the establishment of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Riyadh, in return for which the Soviet Union would not prevent an improvement in Syrian-U.S. relations.

JERUSALEM ARABIC CITES MINISTER ON ARMS EXPORTS

JN221344 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat has declared that the suspension of the memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States will not adversely affect Israeli export facilities. According to the minister, even before there was a memorandum of understanding, there was a steep rise in arms and electronic equipment production and exports. Nevertheless, it was hoped that with the signing of the agreement these industries would be able to develop at a faster pace.

In a statement to our radio correspondent, Minister Gid'on Pat expressed the hope that the United States would positively consider Israel's request for aid because the country is in dire need of the grants and loans it has requested.

Minister Pat said that both countries want the memorandum of understanding and that is why he believes that this memorandum has not actually been cancelled.

The minister of industry and commerce supported the prime minister's reaction to the suspension of the memorandum of understanding and said that members of the U.S. administration in Washington had told him unofficially that Israel's tackling of the Golan issue was correct but that they criticized the timing of the promulgation of the Golan Law.

ALGERIA

ACCORD REACHED WITH FRANCE ON NATURAL GAS PRICE

LD222230 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] It was learned in Algiers and Paris that an agreement has been reached between the two governments on the price of Algerian liquid natural gas which is exported to France. The foreign ministers of the two countries, it is to be recalled, following the visit to Algeria by President Francois Mitterrand, were entrusted with defining the principles of an agreement on the price of gas. In this framework, the two ministers reached an agreement on 20 December guaranteeing the implementation of that agreement. It was also agreed that the organizations and services concerned should begin their discussions on 28 December to conclude final contracts before the end of January.

BENDJEDID CHAIRS FLN CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

LD222206 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The FLN Central Committee resumed the work of its sixth session at about 1730 today under the chairmanship of president Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and party secretary general. It listened to the party draft budget for 1982 and afterward the president of the republic and secretary general of the party asked the rapporteurs of the economic and social committee to submit the private sector file. This would be followed by debate on the party budget and the role of the private sector and its place in the national economy.

At the same session, in accordance with Article 39 of the Basic Party Statute, Articles 115 and 116 of the Internal Party Statute, Article 24 of the Internal Statute of the Central Committee and on the basis of the detailed report of the Central Disciplinary Committee, the Central Committee approved decisions on suspending the following gentlemen from the Central Committee: 'Abd al-'Aziz Butafliqah, 'Abd as-Salam Bil'id, Ahmad (Bughzali), and 'Abd al-Qadir (Ghanim).

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MAY MAKE PRIVATE FRG VISIT IN 1982

NC221557 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Bonn, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will probably make a private visit to West Germany some time next year, liberal (Free Democrat Party-FDP) Member of Parliament Juergen Moellemann said here today.

Mr Moellemann, who is FPD spokesman for foreign affairs and security, said on his return from a visit to Tripoli that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had accepted an invitation from the German-Arab Association.

The politician, who is the association's chairman, also urged Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to use his good offices to encourage talks between Libya and the United States, which recently ordered U.S. citizens to leave Libya.

SRV VICE PREMIER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

LD222314 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Pham Hung, SRV Council of Ministers vice premier, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon accompanied by a delegation which includes a number of senior officials.

Pham Hung made a statement to the JANA reporter on arrival at Tripoli International Airport. He praised the struggle of the Libyan Arab people and their opposition to the imperialist onslaught. He said the SRV has recorded with appreciation and pride the strides made by the Libyan Arab peoples as a result of the revolution, along the path of progress and modern construction.

He added that the Vietnamese people highly appreciate the firm revolutionary stand of the Great September Revolution toward the just Arab issues and he lauded the role that the Jahamiriyah plays in the national Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, for realizing the aims of the Palestinian Arab people.

He strongly denounced the terrorist campaign of the U.S. administration against Libya and in this connection he affirmed the solidarity of the Vietnamese people with the Libyan Arab people in their determined opposition to all forms of imperialist-reactionary conspiring. He said the Vietnamese people are very proud of the courageous stand which the Libyan Arab people took in support of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialists during the Vietnamese war.

PAPER REPLIES TO U.S. TERRORISM CHARGES

PM221447 Tripoli AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 15 Dec 81 p 1

[Editorial: "These Are the Real Reasons"]

[Excerpts] It is a testimony of which the Great 1 September Revolution, the Arab nation and all the peoples struggling for freedom are proud -- namely the announcement by the U.S. administration that Libya is seeking to undermine U.S. interests, which mean aggression, destruction and plundering of people's wealth.

By this statement the U.S. administration has attributed to the Jamahiriyah the noblest and most precious values, which are the basis of the Jamahiriyah's revolutionary presence in the pan-Arab national arena and the international arena.

All the world's peoples realize that what the Reagan administration alleges about U.S. interests and what the U.S. officials and leaders are saying is evidence of aggressive expansionist designs and of a desire to subject the world peoples to U.S. tutelage and influence and to the greed of the exploiter monopolies, so that they can suck the peoples' blood and wealth.

The ideal model and yardstick for service to U.S. interests as seen by the United States is what the buried As-Sadat did and what Numayri, Siad Barre, and Oman's Qabus are doing.

The United States wants to regard these mean and despicable examples as the standard for its foreign relations with peoples and for defining its interests in world countries.

The Great 1 September Revolution refused to be part of this dirty crew or to join the list of those who kowtow to U.S. arrogance and has insisted on pursuing an independent course, free from tutelage and subservience to any world power. It dealt a severe blow to U.S. imperialist influence by ousting five U.S. bases following the outbreak of the Great 1 September Revolution. It continues to expose and reveal the reality of the aggressive U.S. military presence in the Arab area as represented by the U.S. fleets, Rapid Deployment Force and aggressive maneuvers. It has also exposed and uncovered the naive and ignorant agents who have appointed themselves watchdogs over U.S. interests at the expense of the Arab nation's higher interests. The 1 September Revolution has also sided and always sides with the Palestinian Fedayeen for the liberation of Palestine and the repatriation of the Palestinian people.

Because the 1 September Revolution has done all this and because of all these factors -- of which the revolution, the Arab nation and all the world's free peoples are proud -- U.S. imperialism has adopted its present attitude toward the Jamahiriyah people and the revolutionary leader and has clearly and openly declared that the Great 1 September Revolution is seeking to undermine U.S. interests.

Therefore the question, as the U.S. administration itself admits, is not one of terror or alleged assassinations committed by the Libyans but of the 1 September Revolution's rejection of U.S. imperialist interests, of the Jamahiriyah people's revolt against the shackles of humiliation and subjugation and U.S. tutelage and containment, and of the Jamahiriyah people's independence and support for the cause of freedom and of all the wronged, the persecuted and the underdogs in the world.

This is the reality and the essence of the current conflict between the Jamahiriyah people and the U.S. administration. The issue is not one of terror or assassination. It has become clear to U.S. public opinion and to the whole world that Reagan and his administration are the terrorists and killers.

We challenge the U.S. administration and President Reagan to cite evidence to prove their allegations.

We challenge the Reagan administration to prove that Americans in Libya are not safe and, at the same time, we call on the U.S. Congress and leaders of U.S. public opinion to see for themselves that Americans in Libya lead the same normal life as Libyans do.

We assure the whole world that Americans in Libya enjoy greater safety and security than they do in the United States, where life is unstable because of the atmosphere of terror that prevails in U.S. society.

The U.S. administration, by bringing up what it calls the Libyan issue at every international council or conference, suggesting to its European allies that they take retaliatory measures against Libya, hysterically demanding the imposition of economic sanctions against it and going so far in its malice as to commit aggression in the Gulf of Sitre, is in fact reflecting the alarm and fear it feels at the bleak future awaiting its interests in the area if the Great 1 September Revolution continues to adhere to its principled and firm stand of resisting and opposing all colonialist and exploiter concepts and domination, which is what the term U.S. interests means.

MAURITANIA

HAYDALA CONCERNED ABOUT SAHARA CONFLICT

AB221014 Paris AFP in French 0916 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Mauritanian head of state Khouna Ould Haydala expressed his anxiety at the present tendency to internationalize the Saharan conflict, when he was receiving the good wishes of the diplomatic corps.

This tendency, he added, puts at stake interests other than those of the parties to the conflict and thus draws back the prospects of settling the Saharan problem, which he asserted dangerously threatens peace and stability in the region.

The Mauritanian head of state then hoped that modalities for the implementation of the OAU resolutions on Sahara would be rapidly set up in order to establish a just and durable peace in the Maghreb region.

On the other hand, Lt Col Ould Haydala condemned the annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel, which he said was just another step forward in the execution of its expansionist and annexationist policy. He finally called on the international community to consider as null and void this senseless act with serious consequences for international peace and security.

SUDAN

YUGOSLAV TALKS BEGIN IN KHARTOUM 22 DEC

JN221548 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (SUNA) -- Official talks began at Friendship Hall in Khartoum this evening between Sudan and the SFRY.

Vice President Abel Alier delivered a speech at the beginning of the session in which he welcomed Vidoje Zarkovic, member of the Presidency of the SFRY, and his delegation. Abel Alier stressed that this visit will give new impetus to bilateral relations and will help to further bolster joint cooperation. He said that bilateral relations have been solidly based for a long time.

Alier reviewed the accomplishments achieved in light of the joint cooperation between the two countries. He underlined the importance of focusing during the talks on joint cooperation in agriculture.

Alier then touched on the joint efforts of Sudan and the SFRY to bolster the Nonaligned Movement and bring about peace and progress for the Third World states. He referred in this regard to Sudan's effort to keep the Nonaligned Movement away from various attempts to distort its fundamental principles. Alier reviewed Sudan's growing role in the just cause of the Arab nation, the causes of the African Continent, support for the issues of Liberation and sound confrontation of all sorts of colonialist schemes. He added that efforts have been tied up in different international forums to establish a new world economic system based on just economic interaction.

Speaking in the session, Zarkovic expressed his delight at the cordial welcome accorded to him and his delegation and said that the SFRY is following the efforts under the leadership of President Numayri to establish a development structure in Sudan. He then reviewed the process of relations between Sudan and the SFRY and expressed his country's keen desire to back and further enlarge joint cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

Zarkovic explained that his visit to Sudan is aimed at discussing the means of further developing and promoting bilateral relations and exchanging viewpoints on international issues of common interest, particularly the Nonaligned Movement.

The participants in the talks were divided into two committees, one for political affairs and the other for economic affairs. The two committees then began closed working sessions.

PLANS BEGUN FOR BUILDING PORT IN EGYPT

NC230600 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Dec (AFP) -- Sudan has started plans for building a sea port in Egypt in association with a South Korean company.

The Sudanese Sea Ports Corporation recently concluded an agreement in Seoul for carrying out a 12-month million-dollar technical study on the design capacity and cost of the new port near Al-'Alamayn on the Mediterranean.

The AS-SAHAFAH daily today quoted Sea Ports Corporation President Khalid Unsa as saying that finance would be sought for the construction of the new facility, which he expected to start soon after studies were completed.

The port, near the site of the famous World War II battle some 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Alexandria, will be linked to northern Sudan by a road along the west bank of the River Nile.

An offer for Sudan to build a port on the Mediterranean was made by the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat as a token of the close relations between the two Nile Valley states.

TUNISIA

KUWAITI PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD211834 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Excerpts] At noon today, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, arrived in Tunis on a 4-day official visit leading an important delegation.

In a statement on arrival Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said: The aim of this visit is to strengthen relations of cooperation to include all fields in the knowledge that both sides are convinced that this cooperation will benefit everyone. Talks between His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah and Mr Mohammad Mzali have begun.

Talks Begin

LD212130 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The Tunisian-Kuwaiti talks began at 1630 today at Government House with a private conversation between Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and the Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah. At 1710, the two prime ministers chaired a working session.

Those attending on the Tunisian side were Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi; Planning and Finance Minister Mansour Moalla; National Economy Minister Abdelaziz Lasram; Information Minister Tahar Belkhodja; Agriculture Minister Lassad Ben Osman; Minister to the Prime Minister for Civil Service el-Mezri Chekir; Secretary of State to the Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri; Director General of the International Cooperation Department Ahmed ben Arfa; and Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Negdiche.

The Kuwaiti side included Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abd al-Aziz Husayn; Minister of Commerce and Industry Jasim Khalid al-Marzuq; Finance and Planning Minister Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad; Foreign Under Secretary Rashid Abd al-Aziz ar-Rashid; and Information Under Secretary Nasir Mohamed as-Sabah.

Prime Minister Mzali welcomed the guest and accompanying delegation, stressing that the visit will be a historic one and will have a decisive impact on bilateral relations. It will be an opportunity for Tunisia, its president, government and people, to demonstrate its love for the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

At the end of the talks, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah said that the meeting dealt with the need to strengthen relations between Kuwait and its sister Tunisia. The current Arab situation was reviewed and also the steps which must be taken to consolidate Arab solidarity.

WESTERN SAHARA

COMMUNIQUE CITES TWO ATTACKS AGAINST MOROCCANS

LD211312 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] A Saharan Information Ministry communique says that a Saharan Popular Liberation Army unit launched two attacks against the invading monarchist Moroccan forces stationed in Hmidet Essif on 18 December 1981.

The Saharan communique adds that the invading monarchist Moroccan forces, which abandoned their positions after the attack, left behind dozens of dead. The communique stresses that the Saharan Liberation Army forces, which have occupied these positions, captured considerable quantities of arms and military hardware.

ETHIOPIA

MINISTER ON POSSIBLY RECEIVING FUEL FROM USSR

EA180332 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1530 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] Comrade Wollie Chekol, minister of external trade, returned to Addis Ababa this morning after concluding a 3-week tour of Venezuela, Cuba, Czechoslovakia and the USSR. Before ending his tour of the four countries, Comrade Wollie signed a 1981-82 trade protocol in Moscow last Tuesday, which facilitates an increase in the volume of commodity exchange between socialist Ethiopia and the USSR.

In a statement in his office this afternoon, Comrade Wollie Chekol said during his stay in Moscow, he held lengthy talks on the possibility of Ethiopia receiving fuel from the USSR and added that the two sides reached a satisfactory conclusion.

In addition, he said an agreement was reached under which the USSR sells 140,000 tons of cement to Ethiopia on long-term repayment terms.

On his earlier visit to Prague, he said he attended the first meeting of the scientific, technological and trade cooperation commission of the two countries and added that he signed a trade agreement.

He also said that during his stay in Havana at the head of the Ethiopian delegation, he held talks with Cuban authorities on trade links and cooperation between Ethiopia and Cuba and added that he signed a trade accord.

UGANDA

PRESIDENT OBOTE ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT 18 DEC

EA191558 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0755 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Speech by President Milton Obote to Ugandan Parliament in Kampala 18 December on first anniversary of Ugandan People's Congress election victory -- live]

[Excerpts] I am sure that I speak for all honorable members when I say that during this past year members came to appreciate more than ever before that a parliamentary government is to be preferred at all times to government by the gun. [applause] I give the promise, Mr Speaker, that the government will do everything possible to ensure that the beginning we have made will be strengthened and consolidated and that the weaknesses of this first year will be overcome in the successive sessions.

Sir, this first year has marked the end of Uganda's era of shame and isolation in the international community.

The damage which was done after the military coup of 1971 can only be repaired and made good through democratic processes, and that should be the total commitment of members of both sides of the house. Any other course of action, Mr Speaker, either by members of this house or persons outside this house, will plunge Uganda into the days of arbitrary rule and bloodshed. I repeat, Mr Speaker, on behalf of the government side, our total commitment to uphold and strengthen the parliamentary government we have enjoyed this past year. [applause]

The basic government policy during the year was to channel local and external resources to the productive sector. I report to the house, Mr Speaker, that the government will continue to pursue the same policy. Subject to the approval of the house, government does not propose any change in the policy of continuous monitoring and adjustment of prices paid to the producers of commodities such as coffee, cotton, tea, tobacco [break in transmission]

Mr Speaker, due to various factors, including the ignorance and incompetence of the then rulers, as well as absence of governmental leadership and guidance, this potentially rich country was reduced economically and in other respects to the status of what the UN now classifies as one of the least developed countries. It is the policy of the government to get Uganda out this uncomfortable classification of nations. [laughter]

I am glad to report, Mr Speaker, that during the year the incentive of higher producer prices introduced by government during this session has led to increased production of virtually all export and food crops. [applause]

Mr Speaker, when this session began, various areas of Uganda were in need of urgent relief food. I am glad to report that virtually all parts of Uganda are now about self-sufficient in food and that, barring drought, no part of Uganda should be in need of relief food during the next session.

Mr Speaker, a year ago, when this session began, the state of the economy was gloomy and disturbing. This is not the case today. We are certainly on the road to recovery, Mr Speaker.

The package policy which I presented to the house in June this year also dealt with the means of controlling inflation and restoring the value of the Uganda shilling as well, I repeat, as chanelling the resources towards the production sector. Government will publish a document in January giving an assessment of the activities successfully performed during this session.

I report with pride, Mr Speaker, that during this year "magendo" [illicit trade] and smuggling have been virtually eliminated. [laughter] I further report that during the year government instituted a system of price survey of selected consumer goods. I am glad to say that the prices of a wide range of consumer goods have been declining since the removal of price control.

Mr Speaker, the floating of the shilling was a novelty to an economy like ours, but was justified by the fact that while the value of the shilling remained artificially fixed in relation to other currencies it was neither the producer nor the worker in any factory in Uganda who benefited out of such arbitrary arrangements.

Mr Speaker, I report with a high degree of satisfaction that the international response to the government fiscal program has been exceedingly and extremely positive.

I reaffirm the commitment of the government to serve equally every part of the country without discrimination based on anything whatsoever. This is a government of the people of Uganda as a whole, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I regret to report that during the past year we have had incidents of terrorist activity in a limited number of constituencies and districts. I further report that leaders who come from or reside in those areas have claimed to have had no knowledge of these dastardly acts and have not even condemned those activities. [applause] By keeping silent when acts of terrorism take place in one's area, one runs the danger of being regarded as a supporter and an accomplice in terrorist activities. Except for the 10 members who represent the UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] in this house, Mr Speaker, the rest of us belong to political parties.

There are leading persons who belong to political parties represented in this house who have come out openly during the past year with declarations to wage war with the objective of overthrowing the government. It is sad for democracy that the respective parties, which in public statements have advocated democratic rule, the rule of law and human rights, have not found it necessary to publicly denounce those men or take measures to expel them.

Mr Speaker, in the budget speech, (?the) first step to recovery, which I delivered, I drew the attention of the house to a joint declaration made by leaders of the four political parties which contested the 1980 general elections. In that declaration, leaders of the four parties jointly pledged, and I quote: for us to embark successfully on the process of rebuilding and revitalizing our nation, all of us recognize as essential our parties' commitment to the democratic process, a process which alone carries a guarantee that our human rights and freedom will never again be circumscribed. Whatever our differences, we are as one in our pledge to serve Uganda and all her people.

I reaffirm, Mr Speaker, that for the government party this was a very solemn pledge and that we shall make all endeavors to abide by it. I see no point for me or brothers who are party to the pledge speaking about human rights when one has failed to abide by this pledge, when one is condoning or encouraging his supporters to violate such a pledge. Politics, Mr Speaker, is not merely about propaganda. Politics is about people, their welfare, their well-being, their security, their stability, their property and their prosperity. [applause]

Mr Speaker, four parties presented candidates to the electorate on specific rules which, in our case, are contained in the Constitution and in the National Assembly elections act.

I report with a heavy heart that the first and second president of Uganda after liberation, Brother Yusuf Lule and Brother Godfrey Binaisa, have resorted to violence as a means of governing this country and have joined hands with the very men who they knew were Amin's lieutenants in the terrorization and killing of the people and the banishment of democracy from Uganda. [Passage indistinct] for the Lule group, which claimed that they had resorted to violence before the alleged rigging of elections of December 1980. These men were already engaged in acts of violence 18 months before the elections.

The historical fact is that the second UNLF [Uganda National Liberation Front] administration was headed by Mr Godfrey Binaisa. This is the man with some of his cohorts -- who made the announcement in March 1980 very similar to Amin's decree No 14 of 1971 abolishing all political parties.

Multiparty democracy, to this group, was abhorrent. When they were defeated in their objectives, they again resorted to acts of violence.

The cohorts disclosed in London, at a conference, that their campaign of violence in Uganda started in July 1980 -- 6 months before the general elections. Once again, they claim that the justification for their resorting to violence is that the 1980 election was not free and fair and cannot be sustained.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that honorable members know that soon after liberation, in two successive UNLF administrations, one man -- Yoweri Museveni -- was the minister of defense. I am also sure that the house knows that in 1980 he made strenuous efforts to postpone elections, on the argument that the revolution had to be consolidated first. [laughter]

His party won one seat in the elections. But even that person, Mr Speaker, as the whole house knows, has never taken his seat.

Mr Speaker, Yoweri Museveni has never hidden his abhorrence for democratic means as a form of government. To him, political issues can only be resolved by the gun.

Mr Godfrey Binaisa is the vice president of UPM [Uganda People's Movement]. Prof Lule is a long-standing member, for more than 20 years, of the Democratic Party. [laughter]

All the three, together with their collaborators, are now in a joint conspiracy, with Amin's lieutenants, against peace and stability in Uganda.

This conspiracy, Mr Speaker, is the negation of what this house stands for and of the rights of the people of Uganda to choose their representatives and government.

The plot, in which the persons I have just mentioned are engaged, is of the gravest import, in that they are using their parties, which are lawful organizations in Uganda, to undermine the foundations of democracy. I derive no comfort, Mr Speaker, in recognizing that none of these misguided persons belong to my party. [laughter]

I have gone out of my way to ask them to come home and join hands, with all of us, to build a new Uganda on the basis of multiparty parliamentary democracy. I repeat that the government hopes that all, or some of them, will, as a new year resolution, denounce violence, accept the people's party, come home, join us and make their contributions towards the construction of a new democratic Uganda.

Mr Speaker, during the year some statements were made to the effect that we should have fresh elections, to be supervised by a body of independent persons from outside Uganda.

It was a suggestion which completely ignored the fact that the December 1980 elections had been observed, by an independent team from nine Commonwealth countries. In a way, the suggestion was an insult, not only to individual members of the observer team, but also to the governments of their respective countries. Worse still, the suggestion cannot be entertained by this government, because it has the seeds of chaos. It introduces the belief that if a party loses an election its members have only to pick up guns and make wild allegations alleging rigging and fraud in the previous elections, in order to subject the country to fresh elections. In that way, Mr Speaker, the laws governing elections, including petitioning the high court for redress in case of dissatisfaction with any aspect of the electoral process, will be rendered useless.

Mr Speaker, since liberation in 1979 no administration in Uganda lasted for a year [laughter] except this, which I have the honor to lead. [applause]

Sir, we have made this history because of one and one reason only, namely that the government is founded on the will of the people. [applause]

This record, the government, Mr Speaker, shares with members of the opposition. Members opposite are here also because of the will of the electorate. We have therefore, Mr Speaker, a common cause to serve the electorate and to represent their interests, without fear or favor, but always within the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of our country.

Mr Speaker, on those rails we shall not go wrong. We have started well and the future is bright.

I say, with conviction, that the pearl of Africa shall rise and shine. [applause]

Mr Speaker, that is the end of my (?report). [applause]

NIGER

KOUNTCHE ADDRESSES NATION ON 23D ANNIVERSARY

AB181023 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Address by President Seyni Kountche on the occasion of the 23d annivesary of the proclamation of the republic -- live]

[Excerpts] Fellow countrymen and women, our young republic today attains the 23d year of a difficult journey strewn with obstacles and mishaps that it has courageously and resolutely overcome. Because of the hazards of the climatic cycle, the celebration of this anniversary coincides with the end of the agropastoral season which is an important period in the life of our people.

As is the custom on such occasions, my first remarks will naturally concern the results achieved during this precious season and the measures we have taken or should take in order to provide the nation with the essential conditions for a serene existence. The trip which I made last October to assess the agropastoral situation enabled me to realize that our hard-working masses did not reap abundant fruits from their toil. The rainy season was marked all over our vast country by irregular rainfall, both in the area covered and in time, and the crops were repeatedly attacked by numerous predators. But even though the harvest was relatively poorer than last year, the deficit in foodstuffs is limited with the exception of the Diffa and the northern Niamey districts.

A total of 100,000 tons of grains will be required not only to assist the areas showing a deficit but also to enable us to get through the forthcoming interharvest period in the best of conditions. Our belief domonstrates both our caution in the face of capricious climatic conditions and our determination to do everything in order to remain faithful to the historic oath of the armed forces. In this regard, I can assure you that 2.8 million francs will be released to the national buying agencies for the purchase of 40,000 tons of grain which will increase the capacity of the board in the stabilization of prices and the regulation of the security food stocks.

The international community will no doubt demonstrate its preparedness to support the efforts of the Supreme Military Council and the government to free our country from the alarming specter of endemic famine threatening all the other Sahelian countries. The food situation in our country, as well as in other countries, constitutes a matter for serious concern because the general level of world production has decreased in relation to the needs of a world population which is both prolific and hard to please.

The recent celebration of World Nutrition Day is a sign of the times. I therefore wish to remind you of the imperative need for us to rely first of all on our own efforts and capacity to face the numerous challenges thrown down to us by a hostile and malicious environment. When the rhythm changes, the dance also must change!

It is essential that we should free ourselves from all pernicious prejudices which make us prefer one food item to the detriment of the other and very often in contempt of commonsense. It is essential that we should free ourselves from the feverish tendency to waste food during some family or customary events. Finally, it is essential that every man and woman in Niger should make a contribution: A return to the land will be a precious contribution to the achievement of our objective of individual and collective self-sufficiency in food. At the same time, the government will intensify its efforts for the construction of hydroagricultural projects as well as its action aimed at significantly increasing the productivity of our soil.

In your name, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the World Bank, the EEC, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Belgium for their precious assistance and priceless contribution in the establishment of the main bases for our country's development.

To our concern for the well-being of our people have been added our preoccupations regarding our important livestock. As I emphasized while drawing the conclusions of the agro-pastoral situation last October, we must engage in deep reflection concerning the future of our livestock. We must take into account both the steady increase of the livestock and the fragility of our ecological system. A vast campaign of information and sensitization must be undertaken for the benefit of our herdsmen; we must appeal to them for a salutary change of mentality in view of the constraints and exigencies of our time. In fact, the time has passed when the herdsman may confine himself to possessing a large herd and facing the distress and drama engendered by the smallest outbreak of disease and the climatic hazards.

Fellow citizens, no doubt you understand the reasons for this long examination of the situation now prevailing in our rural world. It is normal that the rural world should retain all our attention. It is logical that it should absorb all our energies because it represents the basis of our economy in a very difficult international situation.

The UN conference devoted to the least-developed countries and the Cancun summit which has just taken place within the framework of the North-South dialogue will surely yield no miraculous results. Unemployment does not spare any country in the world. Inflation, stagnation, balance-of-payments deficits and the accelerated deterioration of the terms of trade are weighing very heavily on the precarious balance of our investments. Despite all these handicaps, however, the Supreme Military Council and the government intend to maintain for our country an acceptable rhythm of economic activities compatible with our desire for progress and prosperity.

My dear fellow countrymen and women, as I stressed in previous messages, the search for a greater degree of comfort for the people is the constant preoccupation of the Military Council and the government. The recent decisions they took in this regard were motivated only by their sense of social justice and the crushing weight of the economic situation.

Within the framework of our search for social justice, we have decided on a modest wage increase of about 10 percent, beginning from 1 January 1982, for the auxiliary workers of the public service. In fact, this measure seemed all the more equitable to us as the disproportion is obviously too big between the wages in the public service and the privileged private sector. Still, in the same spirit of social justice we have, however, decided to introduce a graduated tax system in order to make some mandarins contribute more to the nation's development. In fact, this is to take from them a bit of their surplus in order to offer a bit more to the majority of the people longing daily for the bare essentials. Besides, we are well aware of the insignificant scope of these measures which are only a drop of water in an ocean of inflation. I therefore invite you to understand them as an attempt by us to ensure the effectiveness of our national solidarity and curtail the effects of the soaring prices of basic commodities.

Dear compatriots, I must make two observations in another sector of our everyday life. The first is that we consume more than we produce and we import more than we manufacture. Even though this painful reality is the common lot of developing nations, it must incite us to devise a decisive industrial promotion policy. This is why the minister of mining and industry must without delay outline projects and programs for the revival of our small and middle-scale industries. We want to be able to set up in the near future a vast program of industrialization which will free us from chronic dependence. Along with this serious situation of dependence, we continue to take delight in unrestrained waste.

It is the second remark that gives me a real feeling of revulsion against this muddle threatening the people. In this regard, I call on all Niger citizens to be more conscious of the sense of restriction, to have a sense of savings in all their daily actions. This is particularly necessary in the sphere of energy, where our consumption is too high for a non-oil-producing country. During 1981 alone, we spent some 18 billion CFA francs on oil in spite of the recent launching of the (Checha) powerplant.

If some people find it convenient to use their air conditioners during this mild season, it is intolerable to leave the office without turning them off. Although it is unthinkable for us to reduce certain vital expenses, each of us must at least spare himself and the community all supplementary expenditure which nothing can justify.

Fellow citizens, in a country like ours, the problem of social welfare which I mentioned a moment ago compels me to talk to you about the future of our educational system. In my policy statement of 22 April 1974, I expressed fears about the difficult prospects of the development of the educational system of the Niger Republic. An enormous program of rehabilitation and reactivation has been conceived and put into operation in order to free our educational system from the beaten track and reconcile it with our ambition to train cadres of all levels who are capable of ensuring for our country the relative mastership of its own destiny.

It is high time this educational system became the subject of a national debate within the framework of the national development program so that all our people may become conscious of this damning reality and begin a process of deep reflection of the new orientation we must give the system.

The other aspect of this problem is the inopportune return of some public service officials to the school bench. They either want to further their studies or are anxious for promotions in their career. These strictly personal motives must henceforth be in harmony with the programmable needs of the services of the state. However laudable and necessary it may be, training of long duration must first of all be examined to ensure that it is opportune. This examination must be conducted by the [word indistinct] and the National Scholarship Board. I therefore demand more rigor and austerity in the application of the directives contained in my recent circulars.

My dear compatriots, concerning our foreign policy, we continue to remain faithful to the commitments made in the historic proclamation of 15 April 1974. It is this faithfulness coupled with our sincere desire to assert not only the personality, the identity and dignity of our people but also our attachment to principles and ideals of peace, understanding and cooperation among peoples as well as the vision -- both sceptical and generous -- which Niger applies to the future of the world which made me address for the first time the General Assembly of the United Nations. I have a feeling of unquestionable satisfaction for the work accomplished over nearly 8 years by our dear Niger [words indistinct]. During that great meeting, I took the [word indistinct] opportunity to reaffirm to the other nations of the world the consistency and dynamism of our foreign policy.

In Niger, we are for the self-determination of peoples and their right to freely assume their destiny. We are in favor of the respect of the sovereignty of states; we are for the strict observance of the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others; we are in favor of the viablity and inviolability of borders; we are for peace and understanding among nations. We are good neighbors and we expect from all the neighboring states an equal preparedness to establish on a sound basis the structures of a fruitful and friendly cohabitation. In this regard, the relations between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and Niger are an example of consultation and friendly dialogue which is currently resulting in the demarcation of 950 km of our common border. I want to express my deep congratulations to the two delegations which, throughout their negotiations, demonstrated equal serious-mindedness and consciousness. Beyond some inevitable and unfortunate incidents which may temporarily sow discord between states, the people of Niger remain deeply attached to the transcendant values of dialogue and brotherhood toward all neighboring peoples. It is therefore far from being our desire to throw away centuries of sentiments woven by history, geography and common religion, and rule out the idea of normalizing our relations with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. But there are sacrosanct principles to which our states are attached -- there is the honor, dignity and personality of our people, which we cannot sacrifice for one second.

On the eve of the new year, my thoughts naturally turn to the oppressed peoples. It is in a spirit of freedom and justice that we are now urgently looking for Namibia's accession to total sovereignty, the recognition of the inalienable national rights of our brothers in South Africa and the inevitable return of the Palestinian people to their unjustly usurped fatherland. We also hope to see Chad finally recover the peace and security which have so long eluded it.

Faithful to the objectives behind their actions and to their constant desire to take only Niger's interests into account, the armed forces intend to propose to you in the near future dynamic bases for new actions in conformity with the ideals of a mature and free people. Whatever may happen, the national armed forces will continue to work with the vigilance and firm determination characterizing them in order to guarantee our country's security. They will continue to weave the webs of our unity, the precious unity on which our existence as a nation depends. It is for this union of all the children of the counrty that your armed forces are working doggedly with all due deference to some Niger citizens who are either backward or longing for a lost era. (?I must mention) the sordid activities of some citizens with unscrupulous ambitions [words indistinct] who do not know what to do with their ill-acquired wealth [words indistinct]. To be sure, I have the greatest contempt for these renegades who are trying in vain to divide our people by relying on ethnic or regional considerations.

KOUNTCHE DECREES REDUCTION IN PRISON TERMS

AB211631 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] We start this newscast with a decree signed this morning by the chairman of the Supreme Military Council, Head of State Col Seyni Kountche, concerning the reduction of prison terms on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Niger.

On the occasion of the 23d anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Niger, there has been a cut in the prison terms of convicts under the following conditions:

Any individual, who at the time of (?issuance of) the present decree, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for breach of the common law is granted a reduction of 3 months if the duration of that sentence is less than or equal to 1 year; a reduction of one-fifth of his prison sentence if this prison term is more than 1 year or less than 10 years; a reduction of one-sixth of his prison sentence if this prison term is equal to or more than 10 years.

The reduction of prison terms in the above article is not applicable to individuals convicted of evasion or attempt to evade, individuals convicted of theft, kidnapping, swindling, breach of confidence, embezzlement of public funds, embezzlement of funds of joint stock companies or of public or private enterprises, usage of counterfiet currency, or individuals convicted of dealing in drugs or individuals convicted of murder, assassination or parricide.

AFP: RELATIONS WITH LIBYA BEING RESTORED

AB221203 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Niamey, Dec. 22 (AFP) -- Niger is apprently quietly trying to mend its fences with Libya, despite continuing political differences between them.

Authorities in Niamey have thus refused to talk about the recently reported defection to Libya at the end of last August of a dozen senior government officials, including Mohamed Ag Ahmadou, head of the defence minister's office.

Instead, official sources noted that Public Health and Social Affairs Minister Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou had been to Tripoli in November with a message from Head of State Colonel Seyni Kountche for Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Mr Djermakoye, considered to be Colonel Kountche's number two, [words indistinct] sources to have [word indistinct] period since. Both trips followed a visit to Niamey in mid-October from an envoy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, Atomic Energy Minister Abdel Majid Kuud.

These exchanges of messages, whose contents have not been revealed, followed a freeze in political relations between Niamey and Tripoli dating from last January, when Niger threw out the Libyan diplomatic mission here.

The Libyans were accused of transforming the embassy into a people's bureau without consultation and carrying out activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

The government daily SAHEL said the people's bureaus were sources of plots and subversion against the host country.

Relations had been going downhill since the previous October, when Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, in a speech at Awbari, in southwest Libya, accused Niger and Mali of persecuting the Tuareg, the desert nomads of the border regions.

Niger hit back with a campaign against Libya's subversive activities and last April arrested on the border with Nigeria a Senegalese, Ahmet Niasse -- known as the ayatollah of Kaolak -- who was alleged to be one of the principal recruiting agents for Libyan subversion in Central and West Africa.

However, despite the closure of the Libyan Embassy and cultural centre in Niamey, trade and commercial activities have barely suffered. Libay depends on Niger for uranium for experiments in producing nuclear energy, alleged in some quarters to be aimed at building an atomic bomb.

Niger Government sources said that this year Libya had brought 1,212 metric tons of uranium at a price significantly higher than the world rate. Economic circles said that Tripoli, the second largest purchaser of Niger's most precious resources, paid 26,000 CFA francs (some 90 dollars) per kilo (2.2 pounds), compared with the usual prce of 17,500 CFA francs (60 dollars) and the artificial French support price of 20,000 CFA francs (70 dollars).

The price Libya is prepared to pay is very welcome to Niger, which has a desperate need of resources to tackle its economic crisis and the endemic drought.

Tripoli is also continuing its commercial activities in Niamey, playing its part in two important joint enterprises, the Libyan-Niger bank for foreign trade and development (Balinex) and the Niger-Libyan Arab company for development of the production and commercialisation of agro-pastoral products (Sonal).

Analysts predict that only further political differences could retard a full return to normality which has started in the past three months. Diplomatic sources said that Niamey generally welcomed the Libyan withdrawal from neighbouring Chad, adding that the recent exchange of messages sought Libyan reassurances that Niger's security and borders would be respected.

The respective need of Niger for financial resources and of Libya for an end to its relative international isolation could bring the two together, especially since the Islamic Conference is due to be held in Niamey in the spring and the Organisation of African Unity summit in Tripoli in the summer.

MOZAMBIQUE

PRESIDENT OPENS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION

EA142330 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0715 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Address by People's Republic of Mozambique President Machel at the official opening of the ninth ordinary session of the People's Assembly -- live]

[Excerpts] Deputies, members of the diplomatic corps, guests, ladies and gentlemen: At the beginning of the ninth session of the People's Assembly, we wish to greet our deputies, who bring with them the aspirations, experience, life, problems and difficulties, the achievements and victories of all our people, from the Rovuma to Maputo.

We have launched the legality offensive. This offensive was inspired by the fact that our party and government leadership observed systematic violations of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique. This was a violation of our laws and regulations. This violated our principles and our political line. We noted that the violations in many cases were committed by individuals in uniform or carrying ID cards of our defense and security forces. The people alerted us to this situation. By so doing, they demonstrated their total trust in their party and government. The people sought us out to tell us that our principles were being violated by individuals from our own forces.

Our party leadership clearly established that a person violating our Constitution, a person violating our laws and principles, a person abusing the power vested in him by our people, is an infiltrator. We differ from the enemy in our behavior. Now that there is no longer any physical distinction between our zone and the zone of the enemy, this becomes more important than ever before.

We went to the people, analyzed this situation together and announced certain concrete measures. The peoples' enthusiastic participation in the offensive and the way in which it is being implemented by the defense and security forces shows that we took the right path. This is the only coherent path as it is the path of our principles and work methods. [applause]

The reaction, as we anticipated, has been an attempt to take advantage of the legality offensive to discredit our security and defense forces, thus creating discord between them and the people. Our people's vigilantes, however, will not allow such maneuvers to succeed. As we said on 5 November there will be no tolerance of those who try to distort the spirit of the legality offensive.

The legality offensive is not isolated. It is part and parcel of the political and organizational offensive launched at the beginning of last year by the party. The offensive is aimed at making a clean sweep so that we can make real progress in the decade of victory over underdevelopment.

The offensive enables us to detect and neutralize infiltrators. It allows us to maintain the initiative in the class struggle and to confine the enemy to a powerless defensive position. The deputies must perform a fundamental role in the defense of legality. The deputies must be the first legality vigilantes. They will have to be at the frontline of the struggle for respect of our laws. The legality offensive is closely linked with the current economic plan.

The present offensive creates the necessary conditions for the complete realization of the people's wish to forge closer links between the people and the party, the state, and, in particular, the defense and security forces which are the main guarantor of our independence, sovereignty and socialist revolution. Our defense and security forces will emerge stronger from this offensive.

Recent successes in the fight against armed gangs are also a reflection of the positive results already achieved by (?our offensive) for legality. Accordingly, we hail the Mozambique Armed Forces, FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique], for their unprecedented victory over the armed gangs and the long arm of the South African racist army. [applause]

The struggle continues.

[Deputies] The struggle continues.

We hail our defense and security forces for the manner in which they have been implementing the offensive. We hail them for the manner in which they have been assuming the patriotic duties and for the manner in which they have been implementing their tasks.

The People's Republic of Mozambique is a socialist country with a developing economy. Within the framework of our strategy to overcome underdevelopment and our fight to create the material and technical bases of a socialist society, our relations with developed socialist countries assume particular importance in the economic and other sectors. The existence of a socialist camp, which is economically developed and militarily strong, today constitutes the main guarantee of the preservation of world peace and creates the necessary condition for the building of socialism in countries like our own, which have just obtained liberation from colonialism. Revolutionary experience of struggle of the advanced socialist countries under the leadership of their respective vanguard parties constitutes a permanent source of inspiration for us.

The national education system that we (?want to give our people) has been inspired by the rich experiences that we have acquired since the beginning of the armed struggle and also by the revolutionary experiences of other peoples.

It is aimed at achieving three great objectives:

1. Eradication of illiteracy.
2. Gradual introduction of compulsory schooling.
3. Training of cadres for the implementation of our economic plan for the decade.

These are cadres needed in the fight against underdevelopment and the construction of socialism.

Solidarity With Cuba, Nicaragua

EA171548 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The ninth session of the People's Assembly continues to hold its plenary session in our capital. Today's session was opened by the president of the republic at 0800. A new topic was put on the agenda today and was introduced when Deputy (Abdul Karim Basilio) asked to be allowed to table a motion of solidarity with the Republics of Cuba and Nicaragua. According to the motion, the People's Assembly expressed its total condemnation of the aggressive policy of the present U.S. administration toward the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cuba and Nicaragua. The motion denounced interventionist moves and boycotts and economic blackmail by the American Government against the two Latin American countries. It also reaffirmed solidarity with the Cuban people and Government and its militant support for the people of Nicaragua. The motion was passed unanimously.

MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET NAVAL COMMANDER

EA161312 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] National Defense Minister Lt Gen Alberto Chipande yesterday received the visiting commander of the Soviet Navy detachment in Maputo, Rear Admiral (Gueynav Semyenoy).

According to a spokesman of the Defense Ministry, Lt Gen Alberto Chipande underlined the importance of the visit by the fleet of Soviet warships to Mozambique. Minister Chipande pointed out that regular visits by such ships to the country is proof of the ever increasing good relations between the peoples of Mozambique and the USSR, as well as between the two parties and the two countries' armed forces.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH FRANCE -- French Cooperation and Development Minister Jean-Pierre Cot returned to Paris yesterday after talks in Maputo with Mozambican officials. The visit ended with the signing of a general cooperation agreement between Mozambique and France, which will also cover the financing of a cotton project in Caia, and a financial protocol. Signing the agreement, Planning and Agriculture Minister Mario Machungo said a new page in the history of relations between France and Mozambique was started. In reply, Jean-Pierre Cot emphasized the importance of the agreement and the economic potential of our country. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 20 Dec 81 EA]

SOUTH AFRICA

ATTACK ON ANGOLA'S CUNENE PROVINCE DENIED

CA221058 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] The South African Defense Force has described Angolan claims of ongoing battles between South African and Angolan troops in Cunene Province as a crude attempt at propaganda. The defense force spokesman has commented in Pretoria on a report by the Yugoslav news agency, TANJUG, that on the second of this month Angolan troops attacked several important South African held towns in the Angolan province but were repulsed 3 days later in a South African counteroffensive. The spokesman repeated that it was not the policy of South Africa to occupy any Angolan territory. South African forces entered Angola only in order to destroy SWAPO.

POLISH FISHERMEN JUMP SHIP, ASK FOR ASYLUM

LD221736 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Thirty nine Polish fishermen have jumped ship in Walvis Bay and have asked for political asylum in South Africa. The minister of internal affairs, Mr Chris Heunis, has announced that the matter is being treated as a refugee problem and that the fishermen, who were from six Polish trawlers, now in Walvis Bay are being treated with full consideration for conditions which led them to apply for asylum. Mr Heunis said that as soon as a decision had been taken on the (?future) of the Polish seamen more information would be forthcoming. Many Polish seamen have applied for political asylum in Western European countries as well as in Canada and Japan.